An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية ،الراي،

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese writer Elias Khouri on Saturday condemned a decision by the Syrian writers' union to expel leading Arab author Adonis for backing a normalisation with Israel. The union barred Adonis on January 28 because he took part in a U.N.-organised forum of intellectuals in 1993 in Spain which was also attended by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Mr. Khouri, who is well-known for his anti-Israeli views, said the union's decision originated in methods which we believed were abolished forever and which have only led the cultural collapse." This decision "provokes fears. not for Adonis, whose cultural support is intact, but for the kind of struggle to be waged against Israeli hegemony." Mr. Khouri wrote in the daily Al Nahar. Adonis, whose real name is Ali Ahmad Said, is a Lebanese of Syrian origin who lives in Paris. He refused to comment on the union's decision.

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After the excercise Maraniss writes, M. DAMASCUS (AFP) — The Suggested that he (Chead of the Islamic Jihad in snould not get into the Palestine group, Fathi Shakaout of deference to the ki, said Saturday there had and daughter. In the been no moves to oust bim election campain to food his Svrian base. Israeli election campain & from his Syrian base. Israeli on admitted have Prime Minister Yitzhak Droblems in his me Rahin said Friday that was almost know Palestinian leader Yasser of the running when Arafat supported his demands for a Syrian crack-The book the groop claimed a double said. Presents Mr (Im suicide attack which killed 21 2 Smale man with a Israelis oo Jan. 22. But Mr. synce energy pasin Shakaki told AFP: "There is a shaded the tween my organisation and share is little properly the Syrian government, and the properly the Syrian government, and the properly the Syrian government, and the syrians are strong energy to the syrian government. mand my departure from the process of the political activities wherever I the tempting to the political poli its weapons on Palestinian its weapons on Palestinian its weapons on Palestinian its part at the part Rabin, who was then defence minister. "He (Rabin) now regrets his move. He would prefer to have me within his reach," Mr. Shakaki said.

They could Court postpones Geagea U.S. carriers to questioning

be named after BÉIRUT (AFP) — Former Truman, Reagan Christian warlord Samir WASHINGTON (AR. Geagea will face cross-ex-The U.S. Navys not amination on the bombing of a church near Beirut oo Feb.

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Escapater

Arafat to focus on settlements in talks with Rabin — PNA

Israelis seal off Jericho from W. Bank

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will raise the issue of Jewish settlement expansion on the West Bank when he meets with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin next Thursday, the Palestine National Authority (PNA) said Saturday.

"The most important issue is that of settlements," said Mobammad Zuhdi Nashashibi, finance minister in the

"It is the main obstacle and must remain on the agenda until the problem is settled," he said after the weekly Palestinian cabinet meeting

The Rabin-Arafat meeting was announced after an unprecedented Arab-Israeli summit in Cairo beld last Thursday to revive the faltering peace process.

The expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem has angered the Palestinians.

Palestinian Economy Mioister Abmad Qouriea said Saturday that "the peace process is without hope if colonisation does not stop." In a statement after the

cabinet meeting, the Palesti-nain Authority charged Israel with "delaying the imple-mentation of the toterim autonomy accord and going back oo its commitments under the declaration of principles on autonomy, which is endangering the peace pro-

"The Palestinian Authority understands Israel's security needs... but that does not mean halting implementation of the accord, 'said the statement carried by the Palestinian news agency WAFA.

It said Israel had refused to

discuss the issues of settlements. Palestinian elections. army redeployment, Jerusalem or prisoners, which Mr. Arafat raised during the

Talks on extending autoo-omy are to resume Monday

Israel froze negotiations following a double suicide bombing near the coastal town of Netanya which killed 21 Israelis on Jan. 22. Israel's army sealed off the

Palestinian self-rule enelave of Jericho from the rest of the West Bank on Saturday. Israeli military sources said

the Israeli army had 'for security reasons' closed off the main road leading to the Jericho self-rule area. They would not elaborate. 'The Jericho area is like a prison. (This) will support

the opponents of peace and puts the Palestiniao-Israeli agreements in question," said Jibril Al Rajoub, the PNA's security chief in the enclave. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-led PNA must do more to thwart militant groups opposed to the 1993

that Mr. Arafat must clamp down more on Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for the Jan. 22 suicide hombing in central Israel. Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip in response to the attack.

"Mayhe he didn't do enough but he has arrested seven of the heads of the Jihad organisanon," said Mr.

"Well, it's a beginning that wouldn't like to overlook though we need a little bit more than that," he added. PNA member Yasser

Ahed-Rahho said Palestinians would reassess the peace process if they did not get results soon.
"If the Rahin-Arafat sum-

mit on Thursday does not resolve disputed issues, we will convene a large Palestinian meeting to ask the strategic question — is this peace process feasible?" Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat will meet at the Erez checkpoint dividing Gaza and Israel. They have met frequently in recent months without visible progress on the issues that divide them. PNA police have released two prominent Islamic Jihad

members but continued a sweep of other radicals following anti-Israeli attacks, Saturday.

(Continued on page 7)

King meets Ben Alawi, briefs him on outcome of four-way Cairo summit AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on

Saturday received at the Royal Court Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah, who conveyed to the King the greetings of Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

King Hussein briefed the Omani minister on develop-mens in the Middle East peace process and the outcome of the summit held in Cairo on Thursday in which the King, Egypuan President Hosni Muharak, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin participated.

The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and the Omani Ambassador to Jordan. The Omani minister left Amman later Saturday for Cairo. After his meening with

King Hussein, Mr. Ben Alawi told Jordan Television: "I had the honour of meeting with His Majesty King Hussein and conveyed to him to greetings of Sultan Qahoos Ben Saeed of Oman and re-

viewed with him bilateral re-

"I was briefed by His Majesty King Hussein on various issues of concern to Jordan, Oman, the Arab and Islamic worlds and found that the views of Jordan and Oman were identical."

The Omant official said that he found the two countries were determined to de-

Arafat can

His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday receives Omani Minister of State for Foreigo Affairs Yousef Ben Alawi (Petra photo)

velop bilateral relations in various fields, especially scientific and technical fields.

He said he hoped that efforts exerted by King Hussein, Sultan Qaboos and other Arab leaders to clear the Arab atmosphere and mend inter-Arab differences would succeed and that the Middle East peace process

would come to a successful Minister Sharif Zeid Ben

Shaker received in his office Mr. Ben Alawi, who arrived in Amman Friday,

During the meeting, which was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki, discussion covered pan-Arab affairs and how to bolster Jordanian-Omani relations.

The two sides exchanged ideas about regional and in-ternational issues of mutual

concern and ways to reestablish solidarity among Arah states as well as issues related to the Middle East process.

Mr. Ben Alawi said Friday bis visit to Jordan was part of continuous consultations and coordination between the two countries on various issues of common interest. In Cairo, Mr. Ben Alawi will meet with his counter-

(Cootinued on page 7)

keep Israeli-PLO peace accord. members of the group said Mr. Peres said he hoped the closure order, which pre-The two members released Gaza were Abdullah Al Zag and Omar Forah. However, Islaveots Palestinian labourers from working in Israel, would Netanyahu be removed within the next mic Jihad leader Abdullah Al But he told Israel radio

TEL AVIV (AP) - Israel's right-wing opposition Likud Party said Saturday it would allow Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to keep the Gaza Strip but would cut the territory off from Israel if it won the next elections.

"Arafat can keep Gaza, but we will have nothing to do with him and we will not let him create a Palesninian state in the West Bank at any price," Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu told Israeli

"We will surround the Gaza Strip with fences and guard posts to prevent terrorst infiltrations and we will replace Gaza lahourers with tens of thousands of foreign workers," Mr. Netanyahu

Although his party had been opposed to an Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian towns in the Gaza Strip in May last year, it did not plan to send the army back to the territory, he said. It ruled out dismantling Jewish settle-

"The hasic problem is the West Bank and the only viable solution is an autonomous Palestinian entity which would allow the inhabitants to run their own affairs." he said. Mr. Netanyahu said he had

been in contact with influential Palestinians who "privately" approved the plan.

stand on displaced

talks with Israel.

Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nahil Shaath said a joint Arab agreement was needed on a umetable for the return of around one million Palesti-

nians displaced by the war. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said a meeting with Israeli officials would take place in the last week of February in

The talks Saturday were attended by Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Farouk nisarion (PLO).

Most of The displaced, who totalled 350,000 just after the war, live in Jordan.

The fate of 2.26 million Palestinian refugees from

the 1948 Arab-Israeli war is to be discussed during negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories beginning in May 1996 at the latest. According to a Palesti-

nian official, the Cairo, meeting would discuss the return of more than 800,000 Palestinians displaced by the 1967 war. "The ministers will ex-

amine several aspects of the issue concerning the return of displaced Palesti-nians." the Palestinian source told Reuters.

The meeting began after iftar, the sunset meal with which Muslims break the Ramadan fast.

Experts from the three sides met last month and said they agreed on some outstanding issues concerning the return of Palesti-

nians who fled in 1967. They drew up a paper to be presented to Israel and said they had agreed on a method to arrive at realistic statistics on the number of

refugees. A final date for the meeting with Israel has not been set yet. But Palestinian negotiators say they hope it

Saudis said to give \$30m to Palestinians

By Jerusalem Post SAUDI Arabia has promised senior PLO official Faisal Husseini some \$30 million to help strengthen the Palestinians' economic and political standing in Jerusalem, Palestinian sources said

Yesterday. The Saudis also promised Husseini - who has been to Saudi Arabia several times over the past few months to raise funds — another \$12 million for the Palestinian Authority, the sources said.

Husseini pushed hard for the funding to help the cashstrapped Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem, including Orient House, the PLO headquarters, which he runs. The funds will also be used

for Palestinian development. including housing. This is meant as an attempt to gain leverage in future talks regarding the city's

status. The Saudi money for Jerusalem is to come in four installments, with the Saudi government keeping a close watch to ensure the funding is used properly. Husseini was quoted as saying in the east-

ern Jerusalem daily Al Quds. Husseini said the money will be deposited by the Saudi government in the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah, and distributed hy the

(Continued on page 7)

has stressed ber of human organs

NEW DELHI (AP) — The corresponding sovernment on Saturday banned the sale of human organs in India. The han follows the arrest early this week of three hospital employees in a southern state for allegedly paid processing some underployed in his bost oil-rich Gulf states. The kidneys and sore sale of the sale of human organs for a legedly paid of the southern state for allegedly people to donate kidneys in American return for money and jobs in oil-rich Gulf states. The kidneys and sore sale of the sale of human organs in spiral to sale of the sale of human organs in sale of human organs i

her never concealed. Turkey blasts attorn for an explorate Council, as saying. The USS for elease of suspect and the USS for elease of suspect

murders, was released," Mr. Mentese said.

Damascus upholds Arab right to resist

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria on Saturday dismissed Israeli calls to curh hardline Palestinian groups, saying Arabs have the right to resist Israel until they liberate their occu-

pied lands. The official newspaper Tishreen said Damascus will continue to back the Middle East peace process hut added that peace could be made only when Israel withdrew from the occupied Arab lands.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Friday Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat joined in his demand, during a summit meeting in Cairo on Thursday, that Syria stop providing a haven for an alliance of 10 Palestinian groups opposed to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organistion (PLO) peace deal.

Tishreen said: "Peace could not be built in the air. It has its hasic elements which call for the implemeotation of (United Nations) Security Council resolutions, Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab lands and ensuriog self-determination for the Palestinian people.

"If this is not achieved, then Arabs have a right to confront the organised Israeli terrorism and to resist occupation like all peoples of the world."

The newspaper accused Israel of being a "centre for organised terrorism in the region" and said the West was "colluding and forgiving Israel for its criminal acts.

In Israel, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israel Radio's English news on Saturday: "It's a scandal. The scandal is Damascus is the headquarters of all the leaders of the refusal camp that

also use arms." Asked if Israel expected Egypt to put pressure on Syria, be said: "Cairo doesn't press, Cairo can lead and we

(Continued on page 7)

Algeria recalls Paris envoy, slams Mitterrand

ALGIERS (Agencies) --Algeria on Saturday called bome its ambassador to France, rejecting a peace in-inative suggested by French President Francois Mitter-rand and accusing him of acting out of personal hatred.

The envoy's recall, announced by the Foreign Mioistry, underscored both Algiers' anger at Mr. Mitterrand and its rejection of an opposition plan to end the conflict hetween authorines and Muslim fundamentalists.

"Algeria's amhassador • to Paris, Hocine Djoudi, was recalled to Algiers for consultations with the govern-ment. This recall is linked to the last statements by Presideot Francois Mitterrand suggesting the holding of a Eoropean conference on Algeria," the ministry said in a statement on the official news agency APS.

State-run Algerian televi-sion accused Mr. Mitterrand of harhouring 'a latent hatred against Algeria since the first days of the revolution," a reference to his position during the Algerian war of independence in the 1950s in which he favoured maintaining links between France and its then colony.

It charged that France, which currently holds the rotating European Union (EU) presidency, was seeking to "interfere in Algerian affairs in a spirit of tutelage."

Mr. Mitterrand on Friday outlined what he called "hope, not yet a policy" for an EU conference to discuss Algeria, based io part on an opposition conference last month in Italy which proposed conditional negotiations with the Algerian authorities to lead to a transitional government to take the country

to new elections. Algerian state radio earlier termed Mr. Mitterrand's proposal "interference," generated by what it called his batred of Algerian independence, achieved from France in 1962 after a savage eight-year war.

Algeria's army-backed authoriues had already rejected as interference the "peace platform" drawn up in Rome hy its opposition politicians. including an envoy of the outlawed Islamic Salvation

Front (FIS). Mr. Mitterrand on Friday suggested that this platform, which called for a ceasefire and negotiations to form a transitional government leading to free elections, should be the hasis for an EU conference to discuss Algeria.

His proposal was a departure from France's policy of leaving the Algerians to settle their own differences while giving substantial economic aid and some covert military assistance. It appeared to reflect grow-

ing alarm at the scale of violence there, with the risks of refugees fleeing across the Mediterranean and violence spreading to France's fivemillion-strong Muslim com-munity, mostly of Algerian and Moroccan origin.
Algerian state radio hroad-

cast official commentaries saying any attempt to inter-fere io Algeria would fail. "Thus, once again Mitterrand allows himself to interfere in the affairs of an independent and sovereign state. This position is an attempt on his part to offset successive defeats of bis policy on Algeria since his youth dur-

volution," the Arab-language radio said. French-language radio said Mr. Mitterrand's proposal reflected bis "visceral hatred against independent

ing the armed liberation re-

Algeria." But Rabah Kebir, spokesman for the FIS in exile, National Liberation Front (FLN) leader Abdul Hamid Mehri and Socialist Forces Front (FFS) leader Hocine Ait Ahmed all praised the plan as a way to end three vears of violence.

While rejecting the internationalisation of the crisis.

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan, PLO and Egypt work on joint

CAIRO (Agencies) — The foreign ministers of Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) were meeting here Saturday in a hid to adopt a joint position on Palestinians displaced by the 1967 Arab-israeli war ahead of

Amman.

ments there, however.

Kaddoumi, head of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Orga-

Under the PLO-Israeli declaration of principles signed in September 1993, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and Israel are to agree on arrangements for the return of those displaced from the Gaza Strip and West Bank

can take place during

to break the separatist leadership's drive for independence, launched an offensive on New Year's Eve to take the capital. But though they have battered it with air attacks and shells and seized control of the presidential palace,

and southeast of the Sunzha River. A member of the NTV crew said the plane was brought down by anti-aircraft fire at about 10:30 a.m. (0730 GMT). Residents in the area had said the body of The dead pilot, an unnamed ma-

trol sections of the city south

Caucasus territory on Dec. 11 a bright orange parachute and harness from the wreckage. Smaller pieces of debris were scattered over a twokilometre area. Other high-altitude planes

could be heard flying above the city every few minutes.

Each sortie was followed by a long series of powerful explosions coming from Grozny, where thousands of Chechen fighters are still based.

In another complicating factor for the Kremlin. a Chechen opposition body installed and backed by Moscow on Saturday accused the Russian military of looting, killing innocent people and carrying out "harharic hom-bardments," TASS said.

Chechens down Russian warplane

MESKER-YURT, Russia (Agencies) - Chechen fighters Saturday shot down a Russian warplane for the first time as Russian fighter jets continued bombing Chechen targets in the capital Grozny.

The fighters said they had shot down a Sukhoi-25 with machine-gun fire as it launched a low-altitude attack against a target in eastern Chechenya, and bad captured the pilot after he eiected. Footage by the indepen-dent NTV channel showed

parts of the blackened fuselage and turbines of the aircraft scattered in a field about five kilometres southeast of Grozny.

have shot down Russian heli-

copters before, it was the first time they had brought down one of the fighter planes. Many civilians have died in Russian air raids on Grozny and the downing of the SU-25 was a coup for the Chechens.

On Friday SU-25s carried out at least four bombing raids over roughly the same area, hitting parts of thesoutheast of the city in a bid to belp Russian forces on the ground make a decisive reaktbrough. Chechen irregulars, out-

numbered and greatly outgunned, have waged an effective hit-and-run campaign from Grozny's basements and backstreets to defy Russian plans to seize the city. Though Chechen irregulars Russian forces, sent into

Chechen guerrillas still con-

jor, had been taken away. The NTV footage showed the mainly Muslim North a Chechen civilian holding up MOGADISHU (Agencies)
— Somalis looted the abandoned U.N. headquarters in Mogadishu and giant clouds of locusts swarmed in the northwest of the country as U.N. civilian workers stepped up their evacuation plans on Friday.

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U.N. spokesman George Bennett said local Somali leaders had reported seeing three locust swarms each three kilometres long rolling across the hush. Locusts can consume every bit of vegetation in their path.

In Mogadishu, women and children joined crowds stripping down the 160-acre complex that was the nerve centre of U.N. operations for the last two years. It was finally deserted by peacekeepers on Wednesday and promptly

"It's the busiest street in Mogadisbu," said one witness, as people tonered out of the compound, ringed by razor-wire and sandbags, car-rying toilets, basins, doors and windows

The wholesale destruction of the complex, on which the U.N. spent \$160 million — a drop in the ocean for a mission that cost \$1.5 billion a year - has clearly disgusted the United Nations and made it bring evacuating plans for-

A statement by the U.N.'s special envoy, Victor Gbeho. on Thursday noted the systematic looting of the complex and also mentioned the fighting between nval clan militias for control of a huilding vacated by the U.N. Development Programme.

'It is clear that pledges by Somali leaders to keep these areas free of fighting and

CAIRO (AP) — Blindfolded

with ber hands tied behind ..

oured," Mr. Gbeho said, As a result, the statement said, expatriate civilian staff would leave earlier than planned. Somalis fired two mortar

bomhs which slammed into the sea port, one of them at the docks close to where ships are moored, on Thursday. Toere were no casualties but it was the first attack of its kind for months.

Hundreds of foreign civilians, who once hoped to recreate a government and state institutions in a faminestricken country which has had no nacional rulers since January 1991, are hunkered down at the U.N.-controlled airport and sea port with 8.000 soldiers.

The only U.N. expatriate staff still in the city are 15 World Food Programme (WFP) staff who have been blockaded in their bouse by Somali gunmen demanding

A WFP ship carrying 1,800 tonnes of food that docked at Mogadishu has sailed away again hecause one agency official said: "Our operations are at a standstill.

U.N. sources said that all civilians would evacuate by

They said a U.S. militaryled tack force of six nations in a flotilla of 18 ships was likely to begin helping the extrac-tion of Egyptian. Pakistani and Bangladeshi troops almost immediately after-

All U.N. troops are expected to be out by Feb. 24 as U.S. Marines form a rearguard on land, U.N. sources added. There has been no official confirmation of this. U.S. military officers have

said equipment, such as military hardware, which is not departing forces so that the militias cannot plunder it.

An outbreak of fighting between the rival clan militias of Mohammad Farah Aideed, the man who battled U.S.-led forces in Mogadishu in 1993, and Ali Madhi Mohammad for control of the port and airport could erupt after the U.N.'s departure.

Tensions are being stocked further hecause Mr. Ali Mahdi's faction has announced it will hold a reconciliation conference in Mogadishu from next Monday. General Aideed is not Mr. Ali Mahdi has warned

as well that any announcement of the formation of a unilateral government by Gen. Aideed and his allies predicted this week by the cbairman of a south Mogadishu "peace conference" will reighnite the civil war which has cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of

The constantly changing alliances among Somalia's myriad clans and sub-clans is meanwhile complicated by the adoption of Islamic Sharia law in north Mogadishu and in an enclave in the south of the city controlled by Mr. Ali Mahdi's followers.

The Islamic law has been

rejected elsewhere except for a small enclave in the southwest of the country.

In the north, a former British colony which joined with a former Italian colony in 1960 to form independent Somalia, has declared secession as "the Republic of Somaliland." But its independ-

Rights group accuses Egypt of hostage-taking to battle militants

ber back, a 70-year-old woman stood before her norms of buman rights desons, her clothes ripped off. spite cases of terrorism." Police threatened to rape ber She declined to elaborate, if another brother, an Islamic saying she had not seen the militant, did not turn himself Evidence for the Human in, a buman rights group

and his family was released. The account, detailed in a report Tuesday by Human Rights Watch-Middle East, cites more than a dozen cases of people taken hostage in Cairo and southern Egypt to pressure their relatives, usually known or suspected

militants, to surrender. It accuses the government of torturing and killing suspected militants taken into custody during its three-yearold battle with extremists seeking to install Islamic rule.

'The arbitrary and punitive detention of family memhers... indicates that the practice has become systematic and therefore undoubtedly is sauctioned, if not ordered, at a high level within Egypt's security appar-atus," the report concluded.

Egypt's government denies it takes hostages or harasses families. Its interior minister, Hassan Al-Alfi, pledged to end the practice wheo be 100k office in 1993. President Hosni Muharak said this month there are no political prisoners in Egyptian jails.

"This is a country where the legislation is very clear and we condemn any systematic violation of burnan rights," Naela Gabr, director of the Foreign Ministry's Human Rights Department, said received in a sealed coffin.

Monday. "We as a country The practice of hostageand government respect all taking tlates back to 1990 and and government respect all

Rights Watch report was gathered in interviews over four years by the international group and the Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights. The report offered no specific figures, but suggested that dozens of families bave had members detained, particularly in southern Egypt.

The allegations come amid escalating strife in Egypt's long-neglected south, where Islamic militants are fighting a war of attrition against a government they consider corrupt and secular.

Eighty-three people were killed in battles between Islamic militants and police in January, the highest toll for one month since the fighting intensified in 1992. Opposition writers and burnan rights activists say the struggle has come to resemble a vendetta between police and the mili-

The arrests and family harassment have not been confined to the south.

The report highlights the case of Abdul-Harith Madani, a lawyer who represented Muslim militants. He died in custody in April after suffering what the government cal-led an asthma attack. The report says three family members were detained in Cairo to force them to quickly bury his body, which was

increased in 1992, the report said. It has been reported across the country, both in cities and the countryside. Detention bas lasted from a few hours to weeks, torture is common and women bave been stripped, all as part of a campaign to instill fear among villagers, it said.

"They take women, they take children, they take the old, even people whose families bave not been accused,' Abdul-Halim Mandour, an Islamic lawyer in Cairo, told

the Associated Press. After a hig security opera-tion in a Cairo neighbourhood that included hostagetaking, the report said residents developed the slogan: The hell of the Muslim groups is better than the

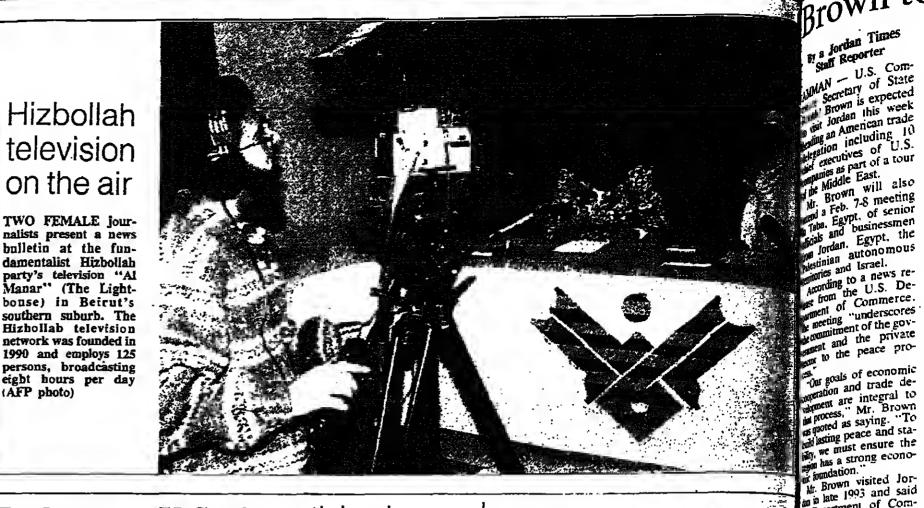
police's beaven. The report also described two cases in which security forces allegedly pulled sus-pected militants from prison and executed them. killings that have been rumoured for months in the south.

In the first case, three men in custody were brought to the scene of an earlier clash and killed, the report said, quoting local lawyers and sources. Police said they died in a Feb. 27 gunbanie.

About three weeks later three suspects were taken from custody and killed in a cemetery, lawyers told Human Rights Watch. The killings occurred hours after five policemen were slain in an ambusb by the Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, they said.

Hizbollah television on the air

nalists present a news bulletin at the fundamentalist Hizbollah party's television "Al Manar" (The Light-bouse) in Beirut's southern suburb. The Hizhollab television network was founded in 1990 and employs 125 persons, broadcasting eight hours per day (AFP photo)



Turkey says U.S. rights | Islamic report biased, baseless

ANKARA (Agency) — A U.S. report saying the human rights situation in Turkey bas worsened is biased and based on mere allegations, Turkey's foreign ministry has said. The U.S. State Depart-

ment reported on Wednesday that the human rights situation in Turkey "worsened significantly" last year as the armed forces stepped up a 10-year war on the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). "The claims in the report...

are hased mainly on informa-tion obtained from local nongovernmental organisations," foreign ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said in a statement.

"The use of these asser-tions, most of which go no further than mere claims, without verification" showed that the U.S. State Department has made the "error of communicating one-sided in-formation," he said.

In its annual report on hu-man rights around the world, the State Department accused the government of Prime Minister Tansu Ciller of failing to carry out promises of improvement.
"Torture and excessive use

of force by security personnel persisted throughout 1994," it said. Mr. Ataman said the Tur-

kish government had made important reforms concerning human rights and intended to continue making improvements. The West has been in-

creasingly criticising Turkey for its hardline approach to Kurdish opposition.

Washington has become openly critical of Ankara over human rights despite Turkey's position as a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ally and, the facilides it supplies for enforcing the western "no-fly zone" over northern Iraq.
In December, a deal for

Turkey's customs union with the European Union was put off until March, pending improvements. The postponement, after a Greek veto, was made amid displeasure over Turkey's human rights record and the recent jailing of eight Kurdish parliamentarians for up to 15 years.

Inmates hospitalised

Ten prisoners on a hunger strike to improve inmates' treatment have been hospitalised for deteriorating health, a human rights activ ist said Friday. However, the inmates, in a

prison in Aydin, western Turkey, were refusing medical treatment, said Dervis Altin, an official of the burnan rights association's hranch in

They are among 89 inmates
—convicted leftist extremists and Kurdish separatists who began fasting on Dec. 30 to pusb for such improvements as the end of censorship of written material sent to and from jail. The semi-official Anatolia

news agency quoted a senior prison official, Ihsan Taskin, as calling the demands unacceptable. More than 250 inmates in another prison, in the west-

em town of Buca, have been on a hunger strike for similar demands since Dec. 22. Istanbul daily Cumhuriyet reported Friday that six of

the inmates in Buca were also in serious condition.

Request to France

The Turkish government Friday asked France to recapture and rearrest the leader of the radical group Dev Sol. who is suspected of taking part in several murders.

Turkey had expressed "disappointment" over the weekend that Dursun Karatas, 41, was released from prison by French authorities last week on condition he remain in France and report regularly to police. Mt. Karatas failed to check

in with French police Thursday night, an official of the Turkish embassy in Paris

"We have contacted all the ministries concerned to express our dissatisfaction with the probable escape from the country of this criminal, and to ask for his arrest." said the official. who spoke on condioon of anonymity. 'He was freed under 'iudi-

cial control, as his anomeys requested," the official said. But last night, he violated the conditions of his free-

Mr. Karaias had been jailed since last September when he was arrested entering France on a forged Dutch passpon. A man and a woman, also

Dev Sol members, were arrested with Mr. Karatas, who was carrying a firearm. according to a diplomatic source in Paris.

Movement to take part in Israeli polls

TEL AVIV (R) — The Islamic Movement in Israel, a group of Muslim fundamentalists which works within Israel's political system, said on Saturday it would mobilise its supporters during the next Israeli elec-

Its head, Sheikh Abdullah Nimr Darwish, said the movement's leadership unanimously approved a de-cision this week to reverse a previous boycott of general elections. The movement operates among the 900,000 Arabs who hold Israeli citizenship.

"It is possible to say that the decision was to partici-pate in the elections," he told Israel Radio in Hehrew. Islamic Movement leaders

have developed close contacts with militant groups like Hamas while stressing that they do not in any way break Israeli law themselves. They have condemned recent Palestinian militant attacks on Israclis.

They recently served as mediators between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Muslim militant groups opposed to the 1993 Israel-PLO peace deal.

Mr. Darwish said a decision had not yet been taken on whether to set up an independent list to run for Israeli parliamentary elections scheduled for 1996, or to advise supponers to vote for existing parties.
"We are going to hold a

referendum in the Islamic Movement and the Arah population in the state of Israel and afterwards we'll have another conference and will act on the decision of the majority." he said. The Islamic Movement's

decision to take part in Israeli elections is expected to boost existing Arab parties which back Prime Minister Yitzhak Rahin's ruling coalition. Recent polls have indicated dwindling support among Israelis for Mr. Rabin. Israeli Arab sources say

the Islamic Movement represents about 20 per cent of Arabs who live in Israel. Muslim fundamentalists control the municipality of Umm A! Fahm, a town of 40.000 people, and other local councils in Arab Israeli

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. Cyprus envoy to visit region in March

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. special representa-tive for Cyprus, former Canadian Prime Minister To Clark, is expected to visit Cyprus, Greece and Turkey in early March, diplomats said. He had been due to leave to the region last weekend but the trip was postponed. Mr. Clark and the U.N. under-secretary-general for political affairs, Marrack Goulding, Friday discussed long-stalled efforts to resolve the Cyprus question with representative of the United States and Britain. Taking part were Richard Beattie, a recently appointed U.S. presidential envoy for Cyprus, and British Deputy U.N. Representative Stephen Gomersall. The meeting was mainly to compare notes and ensure coordination, the sources said.

Friday be wanted to buy a kilbutz or communal settler in Israel, in an interivew with Israeli television. Yalin Yusbbashov said: "I am planning property investmental I would very much like to buy a kibbutz to turn it in a collective farm," Mr. Yushbashov often stays in a Tel Avit hotel. Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tzur immediate ruled out Mr. Yushbasbov's chances, stressing that killingzim, built on state land, are not for sale, Mr. Yushbashiw zim, built on state land, are not for sale. Mr. Yushbassov also said he was simply a "businessman," wrongly accessed by the Russian press of being a maña boss. I do not understand why I am nicknamed Don Corleone," heard, Six Israelis, suspected of involvement in the burglary of the Russia's national library in St. Petersburg, were arrested. Wednesday in Tel Aviv by Israeli police. They are suspected of having helped a branch of the Russian mafa to steal 90 rare manuscripts worth \$300 million in the break-in two months ago. break-in two months ago.

Afghan cleric, 7 others killed

ISLAMABAD (R) — A leading member of an Afgin House to answer de Shiite Muslim faction, Ali Akbar Mesbab Mazari, has been killed in an ambush in northern Afghanistan along with seven companions, government-controlled Kabul Radio said. It said Mazari, a member of the central committee of a pro-government faction of Hezb-e-Wahdat, had been killed on Tuesday near the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif-The radio blamed the Shiite cleric's killing on a faction of Hezb-e-Wahdat opposed to the Kahul government led by President Burhanuddin Rahbani. The Red Cross estimates that more than 25,000 people have been killed in Afghan factional fighting since guerrillas took power from collapsed former communist government in April 1992 after I4 years of civil war.

Iranian killer of Japanese gets 10 years

SUNDSVALL, Sweden (AFP) - An Iranian national was sentenced Friday to 10 years in prison after admitting is had murdered a Japanese model in Japan in April 1992. judicial officials announced here Friday. The Iranian, a 28-year-old refugee whose name was not revealed, had admitted killing the model, a 40-year-old woman, al Har-Juku, a suburb of Tokyo, "because she bad threateneday denounce him to the Japanese police and mafia." State prosecutors, announcing last month that the Iranian was b be tried, said police had needed a year of interrogations to persuade him to admit his crime. After killing the woman with an Arab dagger, the man had made off with money equivalent to around \$10,000.. He was arrested at refugee camp near here in October 1993 after arriving in Sweden under an assumed name. He told investigators he had killed the woman "in a state of panic," smashing bottle over her head and then stabling her several times in the chest. The Iranian was tried in Sweden since under Swedish law he could not be extradited to face a capital charge in a country which maintains the death penalty. The court at Sundsvall, 400 kilometres north of the capital Stockholm, applied the maximum sentence permiss under Swedish law.

Cairo (RJ)

MMAN (Petra) - His Roya Russian mafia 'boss' wants to buy Kibbutz kan received in his office siscologists led hy David Wils mish museum. They reviewed

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A suspected Russian mafia boss first friday be wanted to buy a kilbutz or communal settlement mine for Archaeology and h man expressed satisfaction wi at and his hope that the it zinies and cooperation with Antiquities and other conazi Bisheh, director genera simities, was present at the Mayneh visits hosp

MDABA (Petra) - Health

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NEWS IN

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WMAN (Petra) — The Lowe aking a session Sunday morni spected to hear replies by Ca ased by deputies and to refer to lumber of proposals. Several Estruction of two tunnels or Zaqa highway, one at Prince H other near the Ruseifa sla imbers will examine draft: Diew reports by the House's A

illocal councils gra

MAN (Petra) - The Cities lu62,000. The 11 local council use them to finance ro estruction of municipal build

WHAT'S GO

The following listings are compi ad the daily Arabic press. Re he listed time and place with

Play (in Arabic) entitled "Y Royal Cultural Centre at

Concert by Ibda' band at th

Film entitled "Malcolm X"

2:30 p.m.

SEMIR ninar (in Arabic) entitle dovements" by Mr. Amie Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.

EXHIBI Exhibition of works by Qas

Bank Complex Gallery. Book exhibition at the Ro bowing another exhibition Exhibition of abstract art by Art Gallery.

Exhibition of the works of Basha at Darat Al Funna. A tion entitled "Phase II-Door hian artist Ghada Dahdaleh Arab artists.

Educational works depicting reach Cultural Centre. internation of works by H International Hotel in Aqa/

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR Jordan Valley

Yesterday's high lemperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 20 Humidity readings: Amman 95 per cent.

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Aqaba 64 per cent.

Dr. Mukhles Halasa Dr. Shabaneh Al Lezah ...

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Nairoukh pharmacy Al Salam pharmacy

Yacoub pharmacy ... Shmeisani pharmacy

Nairoujb pharmacy Najib pharmacy

Dr. Ahmad Oanu

. Shtaiwi Abu Zayed .

AMMAN:

PROGRAMME TWO ... Que Le Mielluer Gagne News to French 19:15 Ushuaia 19:30 Profiles of the Muslim World Charlie Chaplio Erebus "Aftermath 20:00 Step by Step 22:00 .. News in English Feature film: "Night Crossing"
23:59 Till We Meet Again

JORDAN TELEVISION

PRAYER TIMES

11:49 14:50 CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfieh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tcl. 624590.

De la Saile Church Tel. 661757 Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Amuniciation Tel. 623541. Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. 771331. dage Orthodox Church Tel 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tet. 77175t

52526. Evangelical Lotheran Church Tel: 824328. German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel. 684195 German-so The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel.675691. The Evangelical Local Church in Tel. 811295

WEATHER supplied by the Depart-Meteorology.

Temperaturas are expected to drop with rainfall expected in all parts of the Kingdom. Skies will be cloudy to partly cloudy with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm

...... 10 / 20

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Blood Bank. Highway Police Traffic Police Price Complaints . Water and Severage 787111 Complaints. Telephone Information (directory assistance) ... Overseas Calls .. 010230 Central Amman Telephone Repairs 63101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 lordan Television Radio Jordan Water Authority
Jordan Electrony Authorny 815615 Company 636381 RJ Faght Information 08-57200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-57200

HOSPITALS

Khalids Maternity, J. Amn Akilch Maternaty, J. Amn. Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman ... 636140 Palestine, Shmersani 664171/4
Shmersani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 64727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37 Al-Ahli, Abdali Italian, Al-Muhajreen . 664164/6 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich (09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital Al Hikas Modern Hospital IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital Ibn Al Nafors Hospital

Princess Haya Hospital

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

642441/2 Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 60240/50
Amal Hospital 674155 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital 109/983323 Zarqa National Hospital

.- (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Oueen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be veri-ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ)

AIRPORT

Bangkok (RJ) Damascus (RJ Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 17:00 New York, Amsterdam Brussels, Paris (RJ)

Vienna (RJ

Manama (GF) Cairo (MS) 20:20 Beiru (ME) 01:10 DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Filghts

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

(Terminal 1) Agaba (RJ) 09-35 Frankfurt (RJ) Vienna (RI

Amsterdam, New York (RJ Athens (RJ) Dhahran 20:30 20:45 20:45 21:25 Agaba, Cairo (R.) ... New Delhi Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)

07:25

Other Flights (Terminal 2) Rome (AZ) Doha, Muscat (GF)

Upper/lower price in fils per kg-700/ 400 Cucumbers (large) Cucumbers (small) 360/ 2/0 850/500 300 / 200 300 / 200 150 / 100 330 / 200 360 / 200 320 / 200 Marrow (large) Marrow (small) Onion (green) Onion (dry) ... Orange Pepper (hot) 1307 200 180 / 130 120/ 80 908 / 500 400/250

.... Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY

TRAIN

Dep. American ... 8:00 a.m. every Montay Art. Dammens 5:00 p.m. every Montay Dep. Dammens 7:30 a.m. every Sanday Art. American ... 5:00 p.m. every Sanday

MARKET PRICES

Brown to tour Jordan, area for economic talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - U.S. Comerce Secretary of State Ronald Brown is expected to visit Jordan this week heading an American trade delegation including 10 chief executives of U.S. companies as part of a tour of the Middle East.

Mr. Brown will also stend a Feb. 7-8 meeting in Taba, Egypt, of senior cofficials and businessmen from Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinian autonomous territories and Israel.

According to a news release from the U.S. Department of Commerce, the meeting "underscores the commitment of the government and the private sector to the peace pro-

"Our goals of economic cooperation and trade development are integral to that process," Mr. Brown was quoted as saying. "To build lasting peace and stability, we must ensure the region has a strong economic foundation." Mr. Brown visited Jor-

INBRI dan in late 1993 and said the Department of Commerce was seriously engaged in efforts to encourto visit region in Man sector to do business with and in the Kingdom in trade as well as joint ventures.

Canadian Prime Minge

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TETT INVESTIGATION

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The commerce secretary particularly emphasised the need for Jordan to revamo its customs duty structure

on automobiles to increase Jordanian imports of American-made vehicles and also to tighten its copy right laws and legislation related to intelligence property rights.

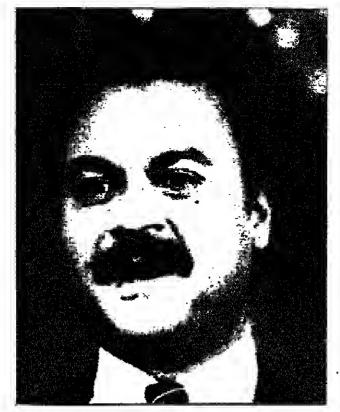
These measures, he said. were inevitable if Jordan wanted to attract American business. Jordan has partly met with the suggested revamping of customs duties by reducing customs tariffs on automobiles, but not to the extent that the Department of Commerce would have liked.

The U.S. is the largest single exporter to Jordan, accounting for about \$300 million of the Kingdom's imports during 1994 and less than \$10 million in exports.

According to the Department of Commerce, Mr. Brown "will meet for the first time next week with trade leaders from Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority to discuss removing trade barriers and enhancing the role of the private sector in the Middle East" during

the Taba meeting.
Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb and a team of officials, as well as representatives of the private sector, are expected to represent Jordan at the meeting, the first of its kind to be held in the

While in the area, Mr. Brown will also chair the third meeting of the U.S.-



Ronald Brown

Israeli Science and Technology Commission, which "encourages joint projects between high-technology industries in the U.S. and Israel and promotes commercially oriented scientific exchanges between the universities and research institutes of the two countries." Mr. Brown and the delegation accompanying him

Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) "to discuss ways to increase economic viability and create jobs in the U.S. and throughout the region," the Commerce Department

Secretary Brown serves on the U.S. president's National Economic Council, the Domestic Policy

Egypt, 'Jordan, Kuwait,

on National Health Care Reform. He also is chairman of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, and of the National Information Infrastructure Task Force, President Clinton's initiative to build a national information superhighway. Secretary Brown is co-chair of the U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, the U.S.-Russia Business Development Committee, and the U.S.-Israel Science and Technology Commission.

Formerly a partner in the Washington, D.C., law firm of Patton, Boggs, and Blow, Secretary Brown is a member of the New York Bar, the District of Columbia Bar and the United States Supreme Court Bar. He also served as chief counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee under the Chairmanship of Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

Secretary Brown spent 12 years with the National Urban League as Deputy Executive Director, General Counsel and vice president for its Washington operations.

Secretary Brown currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Middlebury College and is chair of the Senior Advisory Committee of the Institute of Polities at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He is also an elected member of the Council on Foreign Re-

Saturday launches: Ramadan charity **Princess Basma launches** Ramadan charity campaign Following the visit, the girl guides are involved in Princess visited the Subeihi

and Buweida towns and su-

pervised the distribution of

in-kind gifts to the needy

SALT (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday launched a Ramadan charity campaign in the Balqa Governorate by donating a dialysis unit to the Salf government hospital and distributing food and clothing to 500 needy families in the towns of Subeihi and Buweida and the nearby vil-

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma

The Princess first stopped at the hospital in Salt where she met its director, Usama Samawi, and the staff to whom she presented the di-alysis unit which will benefit 13 kidney parients who used to travel to Amman to obtain medical service at Al Bashir Hospital, the Jordan University Hospital and the King Hussein Medical Centre.

According to Dr. Samawi, other patients among the 80,000 inhabitants of the Balqa Governorate could now come to the hospital to get a similar service instead of going to Amman.

The Princess toured different parts of the bospital, including the paediatric ward, and enquired about the patients' conditions and the services offered to them.

In a brief address, the Princess said that the charity campaign was aimed at raising funds and distributing the contributions to the poor families to enhance social

population.

solidarity, especially in the Holy Month of Ramadan. Mohammad Al Taleb, head of a local council, welcomed the Princess and paid tribute to her endeavours towards helping the poor of Jordan and improving the living conditions of people in

the rural regions. Teams of young volunteers from the local communities were involved in the distribu-.ion of the in-kind donarions to the poor families.

The Ramadan charity campaign, which is spearheaded by the Queen Alia Fund for social development (QAF), is the fifth this year following four successful consecutive

A QAF spokesman said a total of 10,000 boy scouts and

the campaign throughout the Kingdom. They will be wearing uniforms and will have cash collection boxes with proper indentification labels. according to the spokesman who noted that the campaign in the Amman area will take place on Feb. 6.

campaign in Balqa governorate (Petra

The charity campaign aims at collecting cash and in-kind contributions for helping the needy, those who are in poor health and need medicines or covering the cost of required surgeries, according to the

The previous four Ramadan charity campaigns were successful and the contribuuons benefined 15,000 needy families in 1994, the spokesman said, adding that donors can call at any of QAF's 45 centres in Jordan and bring in cash or in-kind contributions or they can call QAF officials who would collect the donanions throughout the campaign in Ramadan.

Last year QAF presented a dialysis unit to the Maan Hospital, to be used in the treatment of kidney par-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Hassan receives archaeologists

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received in his office a delegation of British archaeologists led by David Wilson, former director of the British museum. They reviewed the activities of the British Institute for Archaeology and bistory in Amman. Prince Hassan expressed satisfaction with the institute's performance and his hope that the institute would expand its activities and cooperation with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities and other concerned departments. Dr. Ghazi Bisheh, director general of the Department of Antiquities, was present at the meeting.

Batayneh visits hospital units

MADABA (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Batayneh Saturday visited Madaba and inspected the dialysis unit and the X-ray and emergency sections at the Nadim Hospital which was recently bought by the government from a private institution. The minister later inspected work on a JD120,000 health centre for the town of Lib, near Madaba, and anounced that the bealth centre will be equipped with a dentist clinic and a laboratory.

House to answer deputy queries

AMMAN (Petra) - The Lower House of Parliament is bolding a session Sunday morning when its members are expected to hear replies by Cabinet members to queries raised by deputies and to refer to its concerned committees a number of proposals. Several deputies had suggested the construction of two tunnels or bridges on the Amman-Zarqa highway, one at Prince Hashem Housing Estate and the other ocar the Ruseifa slaughter house. The House members will examine draft amendments to laws and review reports by the House's Administrative Committee.

11 local councils granted loans

AMMAN (Petra) - The Cities and Villages Development Bank last month granted local councils loans totalling JD462,000. The 11 local councils benefitting from the loans will use them to finance road construction and the construction of municipal buildings.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins

and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify

the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

☆ Play (in Arabic) entitled "Ye Who Are Hearing" at the

CONCERT

FILM

Film entitled "Malcolm X" at the American Center at

SEMINAR

Seminar (in Arabic) entitled "The Future of Islamic

Movements" by Mr. Amin Nayif Dhiab at the Royal

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of works by Qasim Al Samir at the Housing

* Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also

showing another exhibition of Arabic Calligraphy.

Exhibition of abstract art by Mohammad Labadi at Alia

the Exhibition of the works of Lebanese artist Amin Al

Basha at Darat Al Funun. Also showing another exhibi-

tion entitled "Phase II-Doors and Windows" by Jorda-

nian artist Ghada Dahdalch and works by contemporary

Educational works depicting the life of "Voltaire" at the

* Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra

Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m.

Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m.

Bank Complex Gallery.

9:00 p.m.

Art Gallery.

Arab artists.

French Cultural Centre.

....

International Hotel in Aqaba.

becomes clear that the wit-

Abequa trial to start soon

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

will visit Israel, the West

Bank, the Gaza Strip,

AMMAN — Prosecutors are near to completing work on the case against Mohammad Abequa, a naturalised American citizen of Jordanian origin who is accused of killing his American wife in New Jersey and kidnapping their two children, and a date could soon be set for trial, officials said Saturday.

They said a prosecutor was expected to visit New Jersey soon to interview witnesses in the case and seek to have some of them travel to Jordan and testify in the trial as prosecution witnesses. The Associated Press

quoted Justice Minister Hisham Al Tal as saying that prosecutor Khalil Darwish, who is expected to travel to New Jersey soon after the judicial authorities approve the trip, "will try to convince the most productive witnesses to travel to Jordan and testify in court."

A court could set the date for the trial as soon as it nesses sought by the prosecution would testify in

Mr. Darwish took over from Prosecutor Fuad Daradshke, who has been handling the case until now. Most of the material evidence in the case has already been forwarded to Jordan by American law enforcement authorities. Mr. Abequa, 46, remains in detention in the Swaqa prison. He was arrested on July 20, two weeks after he

> Nihal, 40, in a dispute over the custody of their two children, Lisa, 6, and Sami, After the July 4 killing, with the children in violation of an American court

ruling, and hence the kid-

allegedly killed his wife,

According to reports, Mr. Abequa, while interrogated by prosecutors and interviewed by the press, had confessed to the killing and fleeing with the children to Jordan.

napping charge.

Jordan, which does not have an extradition treaty with the U.S., has turned down an American request to extradite Mr. Abequa for

The two children were returned to the family of their mother in early Au-

The Abequa case prompted the governments of Jor-dan and the United States to prepare an extradition treaty. The document is expected to be formalised this

In another case, a Saudi Arabian national sentenced to death in a case involving bomb explosions at cinema houses, plots to assassinate Jordanian and Palestinian peace negotiators with dan remains in a U.S. jail.

The convict was reported to have sought to surrender himself to Jordan for an automatic retrial, but he has not yet been cleared of charges of violating American immigration laws for him to be released and sent to the Kingdom, according to sources.

Workshop tackles protection of biological diversity

AMMAN - The International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in cooperation with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) and the Arab Centre for the Studies of the Arid Zones (ACSAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are organising here a 5-day workshop on "Dryland Biodivesity

through Resource Manage-The workshop, inaugurared today (Sunday) by Mansour Ibn Tarif, minister this issue and responds to the recommendations of the Earth Summit on United Nations Conference on Environ-

CED's) Agenda 21. The first workshop was held in Amman in June 1994. Sunday's workshop will address the need for concerted international action and regional cooperation to protect biological diversity, as recognised by the conventions on Biological Diversity, Deserti-

ment and Development (UN-

fication and Agenda 21. The workshop will address: - The need to overcome the serious erosion of dry-

lands biodiversity. — The need to promote in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable use of drylands biodiversity/genenic resources. - The need to provide

governments with the broadest possible diversity of drylands germplasm essential to sustainable agricultural develooment of arid zones. - The need to enhance govlands productivity through integrated management of

ernments and local peoples in incorporating biodiversity conservation and sustainable use issues in drylands natural resources management.

- The need to encourage the generation and use of ity of marginal drylands.

knowledge on the productiv-- The need for human resources development for the implementation of integrated programmes for management of drylands natural

 Increased number of drylands species surveyed, germplasm collected and deposited in national gene banks and in the gene banks network housing the world base collections.

- Increased number of national/regional programme for ecogeographic surveying, collection and conservation of drylands genetic resources and their use in drylands de-

The workshop will be beld over five days at the Marrion Hotel, and includes a visit to the Azraq Oasis Conservanon Project and the Al Sho-

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Turkey are expected, logether with scientists from U.S. and Europe. The overall aim of the workshop is to address the problems of specific ecosystems in the region, find solutions and then match future training needs to this. The findings will also be used to finalise the biodiversity project which is being considered by UNDP/GEF (Global Environment Facilities) for

Amman, Palestinian chambers of commerce sign agreements AMMAN (Petra) - The chamber and the Ramallah to finalise a trade agreement

Amman Chamber of Commerce Saturday concluded Hassouneh, member of the agreements with the cham- Bethlehem chamber Rabah bers of commerce in Ramallah, Bethlehem and Jericho to promote cooperation in trade and conomic investment and in other fields.

Under the agreement, the two sides will offer facilities to businessmen to carry out ioint investment projects, increase trade exchanges and conclude economic agreements benefiting the Amman and Palestinian chambers of commerce.

The two sides agreed to exchange information and expertise, conduct direct contact and consultations on maners related to trade, coordinate their positions with regard to regional and international meetings, organise joint trade exhibitions, publish information and reports about activities conducted by either chamber and exchange visits by chambers staff.

According to the agree-ments, the Amman chamber will organise training courses for staff employed in the Ramallah, Bethlehem and Jericho chambers of commerce and facilitate the Palestinian chambers' contacts with the official institutions and private and public sectors in Jordan.

The agreements were

chamber President Asaad Abideen and member of the Jericho chamber Tawfiq Nweiser. Mr. Murad delivered a

speech at the signing coremony, underlining the importance of these agreements for the Palestinian and the Jordanian sides, noting that the Amman chamber had recently signed similar agreements with the chambers of Nablus, Hebron and Jerusalem which are bound to further bolster bilateral cooperation in economic, trade and investment fields.

Mr. Murad briefed the representatives of the Palestinian chambers on the incentives given to investors in Jordan and the new laws which will grant investors further facilities for the execution of certified economic projects. The representatives of the

Palestinian chambers met with Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, in the presence of Mr. Murad, and exchanged views about ways of bolstering bilateral relations. Mr. Abul Ragheb empha-

strongest possible ties between the two sides, especially in trade affairs. The minister said that a

4-year-old dies electrocuted

sised the need to maintain the

between the Palestine National Authority and the Jordanian government and agree on a list of national products to be exchanged between the two countries.

In another development, the representatives of the Ramallah, Bethlehem and Jericho councils signed agreements with the Amman Chamber of Industry designed to promote buateral cooperation in industry-related affairs and to found a data bank to benefit Jordanian and Palestinian business communities.

The agreements provide for joint industrial fairs to be organised on both banks of the River Jordan, exchanges of information and expertise and cooperation in training of cadres from the three Palestinian areas at the Amman

Amman Chamber of Industry President Khaldoun Abu Hassan, who signed the accords, said that his chamber was giving due concern to close relations with the Palestinian chambers of industry and trade, in implementation of directives by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness

Crown Prince Hassan. Mr. Abu Hassan said the opportunity exists for organising a Palestinian industrial fair in Amman to promote the sale of Palestinian pro-

mari Wild Life Reserve. Palestinian technical delega-Concert by Ibda' band at the Royal Cultural Centre at signed by Haydar Murad, natural resources. Over 50 participants from president of the Amman tion was expected in Amman ducts. of agriculture, is the second - The need to assist govworkshop which addresses

By Kana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 4-year-old Ajloun boy died Friday elec-

trocuted, according to Public

Security Department (PSD) reports. Amer Idrisi was on the roof of his house, he started playing with electric wires

and was electrocuted, the boy's father told police. Mr. Idrisi said he heard his son screaming; when he went to check, he saw his son laying on the floor of the

The child was rushed to Abu Obeidah government hospital but had died of heart failure. Police said they are

investigating the incident. In a separate incident, a

35-year-old man was killed killed and more than 13,000 Friday in Irbid after a marble block fell on him, PSD reports said.

According to the report, Hassan H. was working in a stone cutting shop in Irbid, when the marble block fell on his chest.

The victim was rushed to Princess Basma Hospital, but 459 were rescue operations died sbortly after arriving there.

Police said that the body was transferred to Al Bashir Hospital for an autopsy. The authorities are investigating the incident.

This is the fourth workrelated death to be reported in the Kingdom in the past four weeks.

people were injured in workrelated accidents. In the meantime, the Civil

Defence Department (CDD) responded to 500 emergencies over the past seven days. which resulted in the death of seven people. The report said that of the 500 emergencies, and '31 were fires.

According to CDD public relations Director Captain Farid Share', most of the fires were the result of short ctrcuits in electric wires.

Capt. Share' called on people not to overload the electric outlets and do the necessary maintenance to the electric wires and plugs to avoid Last year, 23 people were such accidents.

Rain forecast through Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The De-

A department spokesman

Torrential rain fell on

and manholes blocked by

Department spokesman Haitham Al Shaer, the low depression centred over Cyprus and which will affect Joroan Monday will bring in more rain, accompanied by thunder, which will continue to fall through Wednesday.

partment of Meteorology Saturday forecast further scattered rain in various parts of Jordan for Sunday and a low depression to affect Jor-. dan and the eastern Mediterranean areas for

told the Jordan Times that

rain fell across the country Saturday as a result of a low depression centred over the

Agaba Saturday, eausing street flooding, according to Tamer Al Favez, the Agaba governor who said that Civil Defence and municipal teams worked hard to reopen roads

According to Meteorology

Jospin wins Socialist nomination

PARIS (R) — Former Socialist chief Liouel Jospin was headed for victory Saturday in the contest to choose the Socialist to take on conservative frontrunner Prime Minister Edonard Balladur in France's presidential elec-

Party officials said vote tallies in the largest Socialist federations showed Mr. Jospm with about a three-to-two lead over current party head Henri Emmanuelli, who conceded it appeared he had

"I think it will be Lionel Jospin (and) I will not be a bad loser," Mr. Emmanuelli told reporters.

"There will be no fratricidal war, as some have predicted over the past two weeks," he said.

Initial tallies across France flagged Mr. Jospin as the

Polish premier fights for

survival WARSAW (R) — Polish Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak fought for political survival Saturday against relentless attacks by President Lech Walesa and signs that his own left-wing coalition partners wanted to dump

The head of the senior ecalition partner, excommunist Aleksander Kwasniewski, said he would be ready to take over from Mr. Pawlak if a viable adminstration could be formed.

"If there was a situation in which I could act in an effective government, then of course I would not refuse.' the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) cheif told Polish News

Agency (PAP).

Mr. Pawlak himself earlier vowed to stand firm and his smaller Polish Peasant Party (PSL) rallied behind him. We will not succumb to this atmosphere of anxiety and scandal," he said.

Mr. Walesa is so determined to get rid of Mr. Pawlak that he began formal moves this week to dissolve parliament, on controversial legal grounds, arousing fears of a constitutional crisis.

His actions evoked protests across the political spectrum. Parliament meeting in an extended session passsed a motion saying it would be illegal for Mr. Walesa to dissolve the body and that the

row with him posed a threat to the nation. In a clear signal that Mr. Walesa is deeply isolated politically, 376 deputies voted for the motion, with

only 16 against and 16 absten-"The possible dissolution

of parliament hy the presi-dent of the republic, as an act which has no legal grounds, would be regarded by the Seim (lower house) as illegal and the president...would be held constitutionally responsible," the motion said. Mr. Walesa says that dis-

missing parliament and prompting new parliamentary elections may be the only way he can unseat the current coalition, made up of parties with roots in the pre-1989 era of communist rule. He has accused Mr. Paw-

lak of stalling market reforms, heading a cabinet in which ministers stand accused of corruption or other ahuses and of trying to dilute the powers of the presidency. Mr. Walesa has said that Mr. Kwasniewski would at least be a more effective lead-

er and has urged him to take In what they termed a "stormy" meeting late Fri-day, SLD chiefs questioned Mr. Pawlak's leadership of

the coalition and suggested both parties vote on whether it should continue. The president's quarrel with Mr. Pawlak has partly

been over appointments to the ministers of defence and foreign affairs, on which Mr. Walesa claims the deciding say under the constitution. Mr. Walesa and Mr. Pawlak have for weeks failed to agree on any compromise candidate for the two vacant

ministries. However, suspicions among the SLD that Mr. Pawlak may have tried this week to do a deal with Mr. Walesa over the posts behind their backs infuriated leaders

of the larger coalition party. The SLD and PSL together have a majority in parliament, giving them an incentive to keep the coaliton. Mr. Kwasniewski, who has so far not taken a cabinet post, told reporters the alliance would survive even if there was a cabinet reshuffle.

eventual winner, a party offi-

cial told Reuters. "The trend is clearly toward Jospin," said the offi-

With their candidate now in place, the Socialists face a formidable uphili battle. Opinion polls have shown

any Socialist candidate lag-ging well behind Mr. Balladur for the April 23 first round of voting.
If the election were held

now, according to the surveys, neither Mr. Jospin nor Mr. Emmanuelli would make the May 7 run-off round of the contest to succeed Socialist Francois Mitterrand, 78. who is stepping down after two seven-year terms as head of state.

Mr. Jospin, addressing supporters in the southwest ern city of Toulouse Saturday, stopped short of claiming victory but pledged if he won the nomination to leave behind him the divisive batties that have plagued his party in the race.

"We must go forward from this time on," he said. "Confronting us is the Bal-

ladur mystery — or rather the Balladur mystique. His score in the opinion polls reflects voters' resignation rather than their desire," Mr. Jospin

high, with about threequarters of the party's 103,000 members voting in the nomination contest. Mr. Jospin, 57, is known as an earnest moderate with little charisma and a chequered

Officials said turnout was

electoral record. The chain-smoking Emmanuelli, 49, is a blunt-speaking militant who faces trial just

weeks before the first round of presidential voting in a party funding scandal

Hampered by internal bickering and their late start in the presidential campaign, the Socialists' situation is a far cry from six weeks ago when they confidently expected the then-outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors to carry their colours.

Then Mr. Delors, who had been leading Mr. Balladur in opinion polls, announced on Dec. 11 he would not run, saying that with Mr. Balladur's centre-right government in power, there would not be a majority in parliament to back his policies.

The Socialists' only hope now lies with polls that show voters in a volatile mood with as many as six in 10 still uncertain how to vote.

Clinton nominee threatened by abortion issue

WASHINGTON (R) — Dr. Henry Foster, President Bill Clinton's nominee to be surgeon-general, disclosed Friday he had performed fewer than a dozen abortions" as a practising physi-cian, complicating his prospects for confirmation.

But the White House said Mr. Clinton knew Dr. Foster's background and was "well satisfied" that his overall record would outweigh the concerns of anti-abortion organisations.

Dr. Foster, a 61-year-old Tennessee obstetrician, was named by the president Thursday to fill a post vacated by firing of Joycelyn Elders for her ontspoken views on sex and drugs.

His nomination was controversial with conservative groups even before he acknowledged, in response to news media inquiries, that he had performed abortions in his nearly 30 years of private medical practice.

"In that period of almost three decades... I believed that I performed fewer than a dozen pregnancy terminations. None were in outpatient settings all were in hospitals and were primarily because the women had been the victims of rape or incest,"

cials said Friday.

lities Friday, keeping the pre-carious Luanda peace accords which ended its 20chain of communications, setting up regular meetings year civil war last November between both sides' military on track. chiefs in different regions A joint statement prepared aimed at avoiding further by United Nations specialists clashes. after the two-day talks agreed The two sides also agreed

on a complete ceasefire and to regroup troops in five zones in the country to avoid further confrontations in breach of the Nov. 20

Angolan rebel group to meet after

The summit would "res-

tore the confidence of the

Angolan people and interna-

tional community, as well as

seek solutions to consolidate

peace and national reconcilia-

No date was mentioned for

The latest developments

came after Angola's military chiefs and UNITA agreed to

a complete cessation of hosti-

tion," the agency said.

the summit.

ceasefire accord; summit agreed

The breakthrough came after face-to-face talks between Angolan ehief-of-staff Human receives pig's kidney transplant

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (AFP) — Swedish doctors have provisionally trans-planted a pig's kidney into a human patient, the Sahl-grenskasjukhuset Umversity, Hospital in Gothenhurgannounced. It said a team at the hospital headed by Pro-; fessor Mattias Aurell carried out the operation on a patient. who had volunteered to midergo it. The kidney was suffused with the patient's blood before being transplanted during an hour-long operation. The organ is being kopt in a container outsidethe patient's body, the hos-pital said. "We are watching. the reactions of the patient and observing whether he is producing urine," Dr. Aurell said. The aim, he added, was to make pig's kidney transplants feasible by the year 2000. Dr. Aurell received 875,000 kronor (\$117,000) from the Inga and Arne Lundberg Foundation to carry out the transplant.

Branagh says computers could replace actors

LISBON (R) — British film star Kenneth Branagh has told an interviewer he believes the day may be coming when real actors are replaced in movies by computergenerated images. Branagh, who played in and directed movie versions of the Shakespeare classics Henry V and Minch Ado About Nothing, made the comment in an interview to promote his latest film Frankestein, the creator of a human monster. In the cinema technological advances are phenomenal. I've no idea if the cinema will still be using actors in a few years' time. They may all be created by computers," he told Portugal's Independente weekly in the interview published Friday. In the movie based on the classic horror story by Mary Shelley, Branagh plays a doctor in 18th century Switzerland who gives life to a corpse and creates a monster he cannot control. "It was the dawn of the industrial revolution and changes that would take ._ place from then onwards were unimaginable," Branagh said of the Frankestein story. "People's lives . changed radically. Today we are seeing a similar phenomenon in the genetic area.
He added, "all this will lead :... to the idea of the creation of life and today, as yesterday, . the question continues to be whether it is possible to create life and what will create it, who will control the process. "In the last few days I have been thinking over the subject and have become increasingly intrigued by the question."

Lancome frees Rossellini for other projects

PARIS (AP) — The upscale cosmetics unit of France's L'Oreal announced that it will release actress and model Isabella Rossellini from her contract at the end of this year. Rossellini, 42, has represented Lancome in print and TV ads worldwide for more than a decade. "During this period. Lancome has developed its range of products and its sales throughout the world," Lancome and Rossellini announced in a joint statement. But Rossellini "wished to pursue other projects in the world of cosmestics and perfume," the state-ment said. To allow her to pursue these projects, Lan-come said it will release her from the exclusivity clause in her contract at the end of 1995. However, Rossellini is allowing Lancome to use photos and video of her beyond 1995.

Jeanne Moreau to head Cannes festival jury

PARIS (AP) - Actress Jeanne Moreau, star of Jules And Jim and Viva Maria, will head the jury for the 48th annual Cannes Film Festival to be held May 17-28, organisers said Friday. Miss Moreau, 67, and about a dozen other jury members to be announced later will de-cide which of 23 films wins the coveted Golden Palm Award, along with best actor, actress and director. The panel also awards special jury prizes if it wishes. Last year's jury, co-president by Clint Eastwood and Catherine Denerve, awarded the Golden Paim to Pulp Fiction by American filmmaker Quentin Tarentino. The Cannes festival is the premier international film gathering.

Ukraine, Belarus sceptical on rapid CIS integration

DONETSK, Ukraine (R) — Ukraine and Belarus have expressed scepticism about rapid economic integration with other former Soviet republics a week before a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) summit devoted to the issue.

Ukrainian Presient Leonid Kuchma, speaking Friday in the eastern industrial city of Donetsk, said each former soviet republic had first to deal with its own economy before tackling a process that had taken decades in Western Europe.

Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko spoke favourably of boosting ties with Russia, but his top aide rejected any extension of a hilateral customs union to other CIS states.

The CIS summit, the first since October, is scheduled for next Friday in Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan. Its agenda is expected to be dominated by proposals to speed integration of members' economies, particularly through a customs union.

"The spotlight at Alma-Ata will be on economic matters. We must find the

Bonn seeks closer ties

that would trans-

cend the NATO alliance and

bind Europe and North

America in a tight part-nership to ensure world sta-

"In the future Europe and

America should coordinate

their foreign and security

policy more comprehensively

than is allowed by the ex-

isting security cooperation fo-

cused on Europe within the

framework of NATO," De-

fence Minister Volker Ruehe

"Europe and America

need a new trans-Atlantic

agenda encompassing the

spectrum of political, econo-

mic and military issues," he

told the annual Wehrkunde

"This is a matter of

agreeing common political

objectives and strategies for

handling basic questions in a

complex world and in a new

age," the German minister added, saying NATO no lon-

ger sufficed as the single insti-

tutional basis for relations.

Malcolm Rifkind agreed.

British Defence Minister

"With the end of the cold

war, NATO and defence

issues remain too narrow a

shoulder on which to base the

whole Atlantic relationship,

he told the Munich confer-

The sentiment echoed.

comments by French Foreign

Minister Alain Juppe Mon-

day proposing a "new trans-

Atlantic charter" that would

enshrine the joint will of the

two continents to safeguard

This sent a strong signal

that France was prepared to

play a fuller, more positive

role in a renovated NATO in

the future. Paris pulled out of

NATO's U.S.-dominated

military command in 1966,

hut has since inched closer to

Mr. Juppe was set to

address the Wehrkunde con-

ference later Saturday. U.S.

Defence Minister William

Perry and NATO Secretary-

General Willy Claes are also

attending.
Mr. Ruehe said Europe

and the United States must

stick together even after win-

ning the cold war and defeat-

ing communism, warning his

audience of politicians and

defence experts against "solo

efforts on this side or that

"The old 'trans-Atlantic

side of the Atlantic."

stability.

the alliance.

Security Conference.

between Europe, America

MUNICH, Germany (R) - bargain' - trading protection

Germany, echoing france, for influence — must be called Saturday for creation further developed into a new,

of a "new trans-Atlantic expanded 'trans-Atlantic

mechanism to make the CIS work so that the interets of all the states coincide." Mr. Kuchma said after a tour of mines and factories in the Donbass Coalfield.

"But I am convinced that in future the main thing will be improving bilateral rela-tions. Europe took decades to achieve nmty. We have today different economie systems. What sort of integration can we speak of?"

In Belarus, Mr. Lukashenko told the chairman of Russia's lower house of parliament Friday he was considering holding referendums on closer ties with Moscow.

"I am sure the Belarussian people will strongly favour fraternal contact and integration, a closer relationship between two great peoples," he

But his chief of staff, Leonid Sinitsin, said integration had its limits. He denied Belarus had agreed to extend a customs union signed with Russia last month to Kazakhstan and thiscounted opening membership to other CIS

"Now we have to give the

trans-Atlantic partnership vi-

sion and strategic substance

was prepared to step up its

contribution to upholding

global security by sending its

Bonn would only consider

sending its forces on United

Nations-backed missions in

Enrope or its periphery

where German soldiers

would be welcomed by all the

Any missions beyoind de-

fending Germany or its

NATO allies must be driven

by compelling reasons that

ensure public support and

military objective, he said.

flect the Kohl administra-

tion's efforts to boost united,

But it has moved cautious-

ly because public opinion re-

mains deeply amhivalent ab-

out sending German soldiers off to fight outside North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

(NATO) territory.
At the same time, many

Europeans have been

pushing to take on more re-sponsibility for their own de-

fence and security policies. The United States has en-

couraged the trend, unwilling

to foot a huge bill to help protect its allies.

politicians are wary of an

American retreat into isola-

tionism at a time when

Europe needs Washington's

economic and military might

to help create a new security

framework for the continent.

preserving American com-mitment lies in unilateralism,

the refusal of international

responsibility and isolation-

ism," Rudolf Scharping,

leader of German's opposi-

tion Social Democrats, says

in a speech prepared for de-

livery to the conference

getting louder of late in the

U.S. they could have the fatal

consequences of strengthen-

ing similar inclinations in

Euorpe," he adds.

"Such voices seem to be

Sunday.

"The greatest danger for

Nevertheless, German

down its Nazi past.

parties to a conflict.

But he made it clear that

troops abroad.

Mr. Ruehe said Germany

Khmer Rouge 'weakened by defectors'

WASHINGTON (AP) -Attempts of the Khmer Rouge guerrillas to recapture power in Cambodia are being stymied by thousands of defections and a steady reduction in the territory they control, State Department offi-

Angolan Chief-of-Staff General Joso Baptista de Matos (left) and his UNITA counterpart General Arlindo Chienda Pena "Ben-Bea"

leave their peace talks meeting, in Waka-

Kongo, Angola's chief and the UNITA rebei

LISBON (AFP) — Angolan

rebel leader Jonas Savimbi

has called a meeting from

Monday of his UNITA move-

ment in central Angola, fol-

lowing an agreement on a cessation of hostilities in the

war-torn country, a Portuguese daily reported Saturday.

The Jornal De Noticias re-

ported, quoting a statement of the National Union for the

Total Independence of Ango-

la (UNITA) that "more than

1,000 delegates from all the

country's provinces" would

gather in central Bailundo.

It said the meeting would

Also Saturday, the Ango-

lan News Agency (ANGOP)

monitored here said that

Angolan President Jose

Eduardo Dos Santos had re-

ceived a letter sent several

weeks ago by Mr. Savimbi

agreeing to a summit

last unil Feb. 10, but did not

give further details.

Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord said Cambodian officials have reported as many as 6,000 defections, he said U.S. figures are in the "several thousand"

Mr. Lord and Deputy

Secretary of State Strobe Talbott briefed reporters on their recent visit to Cambodia and several other Asian

countries. Mr. Talbott said it was significant that a number of defectors are coming out with their families.

Last year, there were widespread reports that the Khmer Rouge was receiving assistance from elements in Thai military. Mr. Talbott Thai government policy of

"no support for the Khmer

Rouge" is on track.

early release,

hostilities Friday, keeping the precarious Luanda peace accords which ended its 20-year

civil war last November on track (AFP photo)

the country.

March 15.

General Joao Baptista de

Matos and his UNITA coun-

terpart, General Arlindo

Chienda Pena "Ben-Ben", at

Waku-Kongo, in the west of

They agreed to disengage

their troops, currently facing each other at Uije in the

north, and Huambo in the

centre, between Feb. 15 and

for an improvement in the

to cooperate on the lifting of

an estimated 20 million land-

mines laid since an upsurge in the fighting in October 1992.

both sides will be given to the

Red Cross to facilitate their

Lists of prisoners of war on

The document also allows

The Khmer Rouge is widely believed to have killed a million or more people dur-ing its 1975-78 rule over Cambodia. A year ago, it scored impressive battlefield victories against government forces, prompting concern here about the stability of Cambodia's fledgling demo-

Despite the guerrilla group's recent setbacks, Mr. said he is satisfied that the Lord said, "we will never be complacent about this

Nicole Simpson's sister poses problem for defence

Simpson's lawyers, defending the football legend on double murder charges, were spend-ing the weekend wrestling with the most compelling and emotional testimony yet in the football legend's double

murder trial. Nicole Brown Simpson's sister, Denise Brown, told a jury Friday how a drunken Simpson humiliated his thenwife by grabbing her crotch in public and once smashed her against a wall and threw her out of his house.

must be backed by a clear political concept and precise Denise, 37, a raven-haired image of the blonde Nicole, broke down frequently and sobbed as she testified about Mr. Ruche's comments rethe relationship between the handsome football star and democratic Germany's milither beautiful sister during her ary role now that the country testimony Friday. has spent 50 years living

Simpson's lead defence attorney, Johnnie Cochran, suggested to reporters after the day's hearings that Ms. Brown's dramatic display on the witness stand might have been orchestrated.

Ms. Brown's testimony was frequently interrupted by defence attorneys asking for socalled sidebar conversations - in which the judge confers with lawyers out of earshot of the jury — in order to object to her evidence.

Mr. Cochran later told reporters be asked the judge for the consultations because he felt Ms. Brown's testi-mony was not fair. "If it's planned, is that fair?" he

But legal experts speculated that if the defence attacked the grieving sister when it gets its turn to question her Monday, that could further damage their client's case.

In the so-called "trial of the century," Simpson, who became a household name in America as a sportscaster, actor and TV pitchman, has pleaded not guilty to murder-ing his ex-wife and her friend Ronald Goldman on June 12.

Providing the most dramaended up falling on her tic testimony yet at the footelbows and her butt," Ms. ball legend's trial as millions Brown said. of TV viewers looked on Ms. Brown lashed into Simpson.



Catherine Boe testifies during the O.J. Simpson double-murder trial in Los Angeles Ms. Boe, a neighbour of Nicole Brown-Simpson,

and his then-wife during divorce proceedings (AFP photo) who she has openly accused

of murdering her sister. She testified that at a crowded har in 1989, a drunken Simpson grabbed his wife between the legs and boasted to strangers, "this is where babies come from and this belongs to me," Ms. Brown testified.

In another episode in the 1980s, Ms. Brown said Simpson exploded in rage when they returned one night from a Mexican restaurant with several friends and she told him that "be took Nicole for granted."

"He started yelling - me?" I don't take her for granted. I do everything," Ms. Brown

"A whole fight broke out. Pictures started flying off the walls. Clothes started flying down the stairs," she said, tears streaming down her face and her voice trembling. "He grabbed Nicole and told her to get out of the house." "He picked her up and threw her against the wall. He picked her up and threw her out of the house. She

As Ms. Brown dabbed tears from her eyes, Deputy District Attorney Christopher Darden asked Judge Lance Ito to stop the session for the day so she could regain her composure. Judge Ito agreed and sent the jury back to their hotel until Monday, when she is due to resume her testimony.

Ms. Brown's appearance on the witness stand ended the first week of testimony in the case.

Meanwhile, the New York Daily News reported that a resident of the Brentwood area of Los Angeles where Ms. Nicole and Mr. Goldman were slain told police they saw a white Ford Bronco that could match those of Simpson's close friend. Al Cowlings, speeding away from the murder scene.

John McKinnon, the paper reported, wrote down the first three letters of the licence plate - 3DH - which matched the first three digits of Mr. Cowlings' licence.

Mr. Cowlings was the man who drove Simpson on his highly publicised "flight" from the police on June 17 last year, the day he was due to be arrested for the mur-

The case against Simpson is that be committed the mur-

ders after driving to his exwife's condominium in his own white Ford Bronco. Simpson apparently spied on his estranged wife and repeatedly had bitter arguments with her, former neighbours of Nicole Simp-

son testified Friday. Carl Colby said be saw the former American football hero walking around Ms. Simpson's home late one evening, apparently trying to lonk in. The incident took place in April 1992, when Simpson and Ms. Simpson were separated. They di-

Mr. Colby's wife, Catherine Boe, said she witnessed more than one bitter argument between the couple and heard Simpson accuse his estranged wife of romantic involvement with other men.

vorced later that year.

"I gather that he was angry at her thinking that she had been with another man. And she was angry at him for being angry at her," said Ms. Boe, who lived next door to Ms. Simpson's house in 1992.

When she told Simpson she was convinced his wife was faithful, Ms. Boe said, "he scoffed at me, as though to indicate that I shouldn't believe ber."



bed of the Valmayor Lake near Madrid. While Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands have suffered massive rainfalls which caused flooded rivers and extensive damage,

parts of Spain such as the region of Andalusia are suffering a severe drought which is endangering the region's drinking

Roads choked as Dutch flood evacuees return home

AMSTERDAM (R) -Dutch roads were choked with cars and trucks Saturday as 55,000 flood evacuees made their way home but 140,000 people remained in temporary shelters.

transplant

GOTHENBURG

Hospital in Gor

who had vole

and reactions of the k
and observing whether
producing urine, Dr.
said. The aim, be able,
to make pigs blue.
Diants feasible by the
2(30). Dr. Almel by
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Branagh says

computers col

replace actor

LISBON (R) - Brite Star Kenneth Brite told an interviewer

ieves the day may be

when real actors are

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an interview to prome latest film Frankens

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The area around the eastern cith of Nijmegen was declared safe but downstream areas of the Mass (Mense) and Waal rivers still faced the threat of weakened dikes collapsing.
"The (provincial) author-

ities have told me there is no longer any danger (around Nijmegen), but this does not apply to territory further west," Interior Minister Hans Dijkstal said.

The water levels are receding, hut the dike inspectors have not yet declared these places safe," Mr. Dijkstal said.

Nijmegen Mayor Ed D'Hondt said water levels had dropped 1.25 metres (4 ft) since their peak Wednes-

Officials said water levels on the Rhine, Mass and Waal rivers were oow falling at a rate of 60 cm (24 inches) a

Authorities said inhabitants of the remaining evacuated areas would not be allowed to return home: Saturday, but there was a chaoce they would he-

allowed home Sunday. Police said roads leading to the safe areas were choked with long columns of vehicles, even though the authorities trying to achieve a phased return to prevent con-

and elderly would not return

TOKYO (AFP) - The

Japanese government moved

Saturday to set np a task

force to help rehuild Kobe

from the ruins of an earth-

quake while preparing to take part in U.S. drills to

improve its response to a

In a meeting at his official

residence, Prime Minister

Tomichi Murayama agreed

with other roling coalidon

leaders to create and head a

special office devoted to the

restoration of the port ciry,

Socialist Party, the Liberal

Democrade Party and the

New Party Sakigake also agreed to establish a panel

that will advise Mr.

Murayama on reconstruction

Also Saturday James Witt.

plans, the officials said.

The leaders from the

coalition officials said.

massive disaster.

Mr. Dijkstal said the sick

until Sunday to avoid causing them any unnecessary discomfort.

Some 15,000 evacuees from the southern province of Limburg, the first to be flooded, began returning to their homes on Friday after suffering their second major flood in 13 months.

Almost a quarter of a million Dutch people were forced to ahandon their homes this week as ancient dikes threatened to collapse under the pressure of rivers swollen by heavy rainfall and melting snow in Germany, France and Belgium.

The week-long crisis sparked intense criticism of the government and environmentalists for delaying work to strengthen this low-lying country's vital flood de-

"I feel very bitter," Lim-burg housewife Ret Pals told Reuters. "They must build a new and bigger dike. They should flood the Hague. Then we'll see what the government does.

Prime Minister Wim Kok announced a compensation scheme late Friday, but mnay of the flood victims were disappointed. Mr. Kok said households

would have to bear the first 2,000 guilders (\$1,176) of damage themselves but that the government would reimburse any damage above this amount.

For those who also suffered in the December 1993

director of the U.S. Federal

Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA), said after

touring Kohe that a

"Japanese government team

would be allowed to join

large-scale anti-hurricane

The Tokyo government

drills in Louisiana in May.

has been under fire for its

slow response after the Jan.

17 quake which has left more

than 5,200 dead. The gov-

ernor of Hyogo prefecture, of

which Kobe is the capital,

waited four hours before call-

Mr. Witt said at the U.S.

consulate general in Osaka,

near Kobe, that the Japanese

should realise that "in any

disaster of this magnitude the

first 72 hours are the most critical ome," according to

Japanese Press reports.

ing in military help.

Japan to set up office for quake restoration

bear the first 2,000 guilders of damage and will receive 65 per cent of any additional

were hit hy the 1993 floods. Business leaders were angry the government did not plan to reimburse companies for revenues lost as a result of evacuation or flooding.

costs, or 90 per cent if they

The Chamber of Commerce in Gelderland province estimates that this damage alone is one billion guilders (\$588 million).

The chairman of the Dutch Employers Organisation VNO. Alexander Rinnooy Kan, said this was unreasonable, because the government was to hlame for neglecting dike maintenance.

As much of Western Europe looked to the sky for telief from devastating floods, drought-hit Spain continued to pray for rain. While the Netherlands and

Germany seemed to be containing their worst floods of the century, five consecutive years of below average rainfall have accumulated to bring central and southern Spain the worst drought of the century.

The chronic lack of water has caused millions of people. to have water supplies cut formany hours a day, destroyed a wide range of crops, ruined farmers and become an increasing threat to the en-

The most public manifestation of the effects of the drought came at the end of floods, the threshold will be January when the World lowered to 1,000 guilders Alpine Skiing Cham-(\$588). Alpine Skiing Cham-pionships scheduled in the Cereals, cotton rice and other fruits.

on the assumption that an

enormous hurricane has hit

the states of Louisiana and

Mississippi. Mr. Witt said he

hoped Japanese specialists

would learn about coopera-

tion among federal, state and

A team of nine FEMA

specialists, led by Mr. Witt,

arrived Tuesday under an

agreement hetween U.S.

President Bill Clinton and

The agency was established

in 1979 under direct supervi-

sion of the president for

emergency planning, pre-

paredness, response and re-

covery in disasters including

Meanwhile, the death toll

from the quake, which registered 7.2 on the Richter jection.

local administracions.

Mr. Murayama.

nuclear attacks.

Greneda in southerly Andalusia, had to be postponed until oext year because the slopes were hare of snow for the time in 25 years.

Spain's northern regions of Galicia, Asturias, Cantahria and the Basque country are kept lush and green hy freuent rain coming in from the Átlantic.

Here, heavy rainstorms caused some minor flooding while floodwater levels in the Netherlands, Germany, France and Britain were at their peak.

But the central plateau and southern and eastern areas of the country, protected from northerly weather systems by ranges of mountains, are brown and parched for much of the year as dry, sunny winters follow dry, sunny and ferociously hot summers. Wheo the traditionally

wetter months of spring and autumn fail to live up to expectations, the country is in trouble. And this is what has happened for the past five years. Spain's reservoirs nacion-

wide are now at 23 per cent of capacity compared with 30 per cent a year ago and with an average 35 per cent over the past five years. In the giant, southernmost

regioo of Andalusia they are at 10. 7 per cent, the lowest for several months, according to the local Agriculture Five Andalusian provincial

and fires rose to 5,250 Satur-

day as six more deaths were

The National Police Agen-

cy said there were six other

people still missing while 26,804 people had been in-jured and 107,610 houses and

huildings had been destroyed

or damaged.
Aftershocks continued in

the industrial helt along the

Seto Inland Sea, with one

registering 3.7 on the Richter scale at 4:10 p.m. (0710

GMT) hut causing no proper-

ty damage or casualties, the

Meteorological Agency said.

The prefectural govern-ment of Hyogo revised its

estimated costs of post-quake

reconstruction to 9.63 trillion

yen (\$96 hillion), up 125 bil-lion yen from its earlier pro-

The U.S. drills will be held Scale, as well as aftershocks

confirmed.

capitals - Cadiz, Granada, Jaen, Malaga and Seville are under water rationing. Crops hit include olives,

> Commander Titov,s the second cosmonaut to fly aboard a shuttle, grappled with the boxy 2,800-pound (1,200-kilogramme) satellite using Discovery's 50-foot (15-

Spartan, high overhead and aimed its ultraviolet telescope toward the shuttle tail for a 41/2-hour study. The telescope was aimed later toward a shuttle jet to gather ultraviolet images of exhaust plumes, and then placed hack in the cargo hay.

surrounding some shuttle sur-faces in flight is caused by molecules of atomic oxygen

The glow could interfere with delicate science instruments, and the military is interested in the phenomenon as a way of tracking

free-flying astronomical re-search before crew members

Mission Control continued monitoring a leaky shuttle steering jet as Discovery pur-sued Mir. The leak was detected after Fridayy's launch and was still spewing icy propellant into space early Saturday.

aNASA called the seepage minor and said it would have no impact on Monday'ss rendezvous, assuming it doesn't worsen. If it does, Discovery will have to stay at least 1,000 feet (300 metres) from Mir instead of coming within 35 feet (10.5 metres).

Late Saturday morning, Commander James Wetherbee said that most of the time the leaking propellant looks like "a very slow snowstorm," with just a few parti-

so, "it looks like a geyser."
The 250-milte-high (400-kilometre-high) rendezvous with Mir is the top priority of the eight-day flight. It's intended as practice for the first

Ecuador concerned by delay in final truce talks with Peru

RIO DE JANIERO (R) -Ecuador's delegate at talks aimed at ending a violent border dispute with Peru said early Saturday be was "deeply concerned" over the delay in reaching a final ceasefire agreement.

Delegates from the two countries, as well as three Other Latin American nations - Argentina, Chile and Brazil - and the United States, were locked in iotense negoliations to find commoo ground for a final peace agreement.

On Friday the delegates had reached a provisional ceasefire agreement which was sent to the capital of Peru and Equador and of the four guarantor countries to be approved.

Reading from a statement, Amhassador Marcelo Fer-nandez de Cordoba said that while the delegates from the six countries were struggling to reach a ceasefire agreement. Ecuadorean border posts had been attacked by Peruvian bombers and artil-

The Ecuadorean deleganon hopes the secondary obstacles and inconveniences encountered until now will cease, for once and for all, to disturb what is substantive to the problem," he said.

Responding to the Ecuadorean statement, Peruvian delegate Amhassador Eduardo Ponce Vizanco said be was surprised by the Ecuadorean delegate's pessimism as the negotiadons were in their final stages

"I don't understand the pessimistic nature of the statement just as we are about to emhark, perhaps I

on the Peruvian-Ecuadorean border, 1200 Peruvian troops cheer as they deploy in a battle zone on a tributary of the Cenepa River kilometres north of Lima (AFP photo)

bope, on the final stage of the oegotiatioos," Mr. Pooce Vizanco said.

He said Ecuador had launched a deliberate propaganda campaign designed to coo-fuse public opinioo and identify Peru as the aggressor in the border conflict.

Neither delegate would comment on the nature of the obstacles delaying an end to the oegotiations. Fighting between Peru and

Ecuador erupted last week in a disputed border area of the Amazoo jungle known as Cordillera De Los Condores to which both countries lay claim. The disputer centres on a 212-square mile (340) sonare kilometres) area which has yet to be demarcated as called for in a 1942 treaty.

In Ecnador's capital Quito, a high-ranking military official said Pernvian warplanes

U.N.-imposed "no-fly" zone,

a U.N. official said Saturday.

The flights also broke a

supply emhargo hy the Ser-

hian government against the

Bosnian Serbs, said U.N. spokesman Paul Risley in Zagreh, Croatia.
U.N. peacekeepers

observed some 15-20 Serbian

helicopters landing Friday

evening near the besieged

Muslim enclave of Srehreni-

ca, a U.N.-designated "safe

zone" in eastern Bosnia, said

craft originating from Serbia proper," Mr. Risley told the Associated Press. "It is not

the first incident of the kind,

great number of aircraft

border, hut never with such a

International monitors on

the border hetween Serbia

and Bosnia said that the

emhargo is largely heing

observed. As a result, the

United Nations eased sanc-

tions imposed against Serbia

for fomenting the Bosnian

ated reports of such helicop-

ter flights, which are low and

Yet there have been repe-

civil war.

Last fall, he added, up to

flying at one time."

"These were Serhian air-

Mr. Risley.

and helicopters had launched their third attack io as many days on its defence positions.

He said Peruvian warplanes and helicopters bombed the Cueva De Los Tallos and Base Sur military posts, hut Peruvian infantry did not participate in the attacks.

"The intensity of these attacks are less than the ones suffered Thursday and Wednesday," he said. The official said Ecuador

continued to hold all of its defence positions in the disputed area and added that there were no reports of casualties as a result of Friday's attacks.

Earlier Friday, an Ecuadorean general said that 60 people had died and 44 were injured since hostilides broke out with Peru over the disputed jungle area said to be rich in gold.

The general, a member of the Armed Forces High Command, told Reuters about 50 Peruvians and 10 Ecuadorean soldiers have been killed, while 30 Peru-vians and 14 Ecuadoreans have been wounded since hostilities started a week ago.

Peru, however, said Thursday that only 54 people have died, 44 of them Ecuado-

The presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Paoama and Veoezuela, meeting at a summit in the Venezuelan city of Cumana, called upon the two warring countries to make new efforts to end the con-

"We are very concerned because, despite the fact we have been talking about a ceasefire for the last week, it still hasn't been achieved, said Colombian President Ernesto Samper.

Cosmonaut Serbian helicopters fly into Bosnia SARAJEVO, Bosniaconducts Herzegovina (AP) — Heli-copters from Serhia flew glow test fresh supplies to Bosnian as shuttle Serb forces in violation of a

chases Mir SPACE CENTRE, Houston

(AP) - Russian Cosmonaut Vladimir Titov hoisted a gleaming red satellite from Discovery's cargo bay early Saturday to help NASA pinpoint what causes a cosmic phenomenon called shuttle

The experiment was one of several secondary tasks for to the mission's highlight - a planned rendezvous Monday with the Russian space stadon Mir.

hut we have never had such a 80 flights a day were made across the Serbian-Bosnian metre) robot arm.

large group of aircraft.
Ironically, Friday marked
six months since Serhia He lifted the craft, called announced it was cutting off all hut humanitarian supplies to the Bosnian Serbs because they refused to accept an ioternadonal plan to end their war against Bosnia's Muslim-led government.

Scientists hope to confirm a theory that the faint glow and nitrogen combining as the spaceship slams into

missiles.

retrieve it for the trip home.

now.

demands within Thailand for a review of the conciliatory approach.

shuttle-Mir docking in June. | fighting the military junta.

slow and can thus escape detection by high-flying NATO jets monitoring the

"no-fly" zone. In Bonsia, there was continued fighong in the northwest Bihac region. Some 400 detonations shook the most hotly contested area of the Bihac pocket, Velika Kladu-

sa, Friday, said U.N. spokes-man Lt.-Col. Gary Coward. The helicopter flights came at a ome when all sides seem to be using a month-old ceasefire to prepare for more

On Friday, the most senior U.N. official in Yugoslavia warned that Balkan violence is sure to increase unless peace is negodated now.

"Throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina, confrontation lines remain dangerously close, and armed forces continue their preparations for wider conflict," warned Yasushi Akashi, the top U.N. official in former Yugoslavia. Without "immediate steps to strengthen the ceasefire, the threat of renewed conflict is real."

U.S. Assistant-Secretary of State Richard Holhrooke is meeting Muslim and Croat leaders from Bosnia Sunday in Munich to try and holster the U.S.-hacked federation those sides formed last

The aim is to convince the Bosnian Serbs that they are isolated, and thus 10 help prevent a new outbreak of war, Mr. Holhrooke said.

He conceded, however, that this is tough, given the divisions between Bosnia's Muslims and Croats, who fought a bitter year-long war with each other that ended with the federation agree-

Meanwhile, Bosnian Seib leader Radovan Karadzic warned that any renewal of the war in neighbouring Croada would draw his forces in: the fray.

C Jadan President Franjo udjman has said U.N. peacekeepers separating his forces from rehel Serhs must leave Croatia after their mandate expires March 31.

Bosnia's war began in April 1992 when Bosnian Serbs rebelled against the republic's vote to secede from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia, now composed only of Serbia and Montenegro. More than 200,000 people are dead or missing.

U.N. officials said Saturday Bosnian Serb commanders have held direct talks with Bosnian Croat officers in a sign the two sides may be ready to forge separate agreements.

The United Nations mission announced what it called "a major breakthrough" in ceasefire discussions held Friday between Serh and Croat army officers, who met despite the conspicuous absence of the Muslim-led Bosnian government army.

Bosnian Croat Defence Council (HVO) generals agreed with Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) generals in a meeting in the central town of Gornji Vakuf on mapping confrontacion lines hetween Kupres in central Bosnia 10 the Croanan border on the

Senior officers from the BSA First and Second Krajina Corps and Croat commanders from the HVO pledged to suhmit maps of the front lines in the region to allow for the eventual separa-

Burma's attacks on Karens could Yalta anniversary passes with little fanfare Spartana is to be released undermine diplomatic offensive soviet politics. Yalta, on the - frightened off holidaymak-YALTA, Ukraine (R) - Fifmer Soviet Union - Ahkhanext week for two days of Crimean Peninsula, now is zia in Georgia and Dnestr in ers, as did a cholera epidemic part of impoverished post-Soviet Ukraine. Moldova.

ty years ago leaders of the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union met in this Black Sea resort to determine the shape of Europe after World War II, hut Saturday's anniversary passed with little Franklin Roosevelt, Win-

ston Churchill and Josef Stalin spent eight days from Feb. 4, 1945, in the clifftop Livadia Palace overlooking the sea.

Their deliberations, held as the allies had all but won the war in Europe against the Nazis, produced a continent with a defeated Germany divided into four control zones and eventually split in two.

It set the stage for the creation of the United Nations later that year and also decided the fate of Eastern Europe's other nations. Poland expanded its territory hut eventually fell under Moscow's control, like the region's other peoples, despite the best intentions of

Churchill and Roosevelt. Commemorations were low-key and unceremonial, at least partly hecause of post-

"All I can say is I hope all these events will help us, the people who live here," said pensioner Zinaida Ivanova. Maybe if lots of leaders come here, we'll get more water and electricity and will be able to buy more in the shops."

But no leaders - or even middle-ranking officials -covered oo Yalta during its traditional Fehruary thaw. A symposium attended hy

a handful of academics was scheduled for the resort summer playground of tsars and Communist leaders whose tonrism industry is in a tailspin as a result of crumbling facilities, water shortages and erratic heating.

Crimea's pro-Russian authorities, pursuing a cam-paign to loosen Ukraine's control over the region, staged a meeting of parliamentarians. In attendance were Russian conservatives and groups from two others separatist regions io the for-

At least one of commemoraove meeting planned by a Western insolution was cancelled when organisers concluded that local condidons were inadequate to invite top-level guests.

"This anniversary is by no means a hig event for us," said Pyotr Makukha, editor of a local newspaper and deputy chairman of the Crimean Resort Association. "No one here is taking

advantage of it. All the intrigue is being generated in the top Crimean political echelons. The local economy, heavily dependent on the annual

summer influx of Russian and Western tourists, was devastated last year by severe water shortages which closed dozens of health spas. Residents lined up to the streets to fill buckets with water brought in hy tanker trucks. Poliocal disputes between

Crimea and the Ukrainian

government - often ex-

aggerated by Russian media

which came within a few kilometres of Yalta itself. The antiversary has cre-

ated a minefield for Ukraine's leadership, which has been trying to hring Crimean separatists to heel since the collapse of the Soviet Union in late 1991. The Kiev government has organised an academic

local diplomats and U.N. and pan-European representaoves — and is trying hard to pay no attendon to the events staged in Yalta itself. "The conference was important in that all sides decided not to persecute the

gathering of its own for next

week - attended only hy

Foreign Ministry spokesman Olexander Tsvetkov said. "It also decided on the creation of the United Naoons and oo Ukrainian membership. But some decisions were taken from a position of strength without due account

of the interests of the peoples

concerned."

German people hut to destroy the Nazi machine.' cles. But every 30 seconds or

BANGKOK (AFP) - The Government soldiers are

Burmese military junta's hattlefield successes against rebel Karen forces and their allies may undermine its overtures to foreign capitals, according to diplomats and observers here.

Besides ruffling the United States and Australia, which have led naoons pressing the junta to move towards democracy, the offensive may alienate neighbouring Thailand. Bangkok has led a policy of "constructive engagement" with Rangoon up to In the face of renewed in-

stability on the border and more than 10,000 refugees on its soil, there are growing

Burmese government forces had a spectacular success in taking the Manerplaw Headquarters of the Karen National Union (KNU) and its allies last week. The KNU is the largest rebel group

now targetong other KNU bases. But their action could force the Association of South East Asian Nations which groups Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei to rethink its cautious engagement policy, adopted

largely at Bangkok's behest.
"I'm afraid the fighting might affect ASEAN's constructive engagement policy," Thai Foreign Minister Thanksin Shinawatra was quoted as saying by the Bangkok press Saturday. "We're worried that if the

fighting condnues, ASEAN will take the view that it is no longer a good policy," he His statement was a far cry

from Bangkok's advocacy of a soft approach towards Rangoon. The Thai government opposed Western sanctions in the wake of massacres of pro-democracy demonstrators in Rangoon in 1988.

In clear sign of Bangkok's nerves, Thai Prime Minister

he would pay an unprecedented three-day trip to the Burmese border from Sun-

On his schedule is Mae Sot, adjacent to an encampment of 800 Karens under constant fire from junta forces.

The Karens have been on the run since December when the junta overturned its pursuit of a peaceful solution to problems with the ethnic minoriry.

Despite the capture of the Karen stronghold, most observers believe the junta is nowhere near a decisive victory over the rebels who have shown their ability to mount a portracted guerrilla war.

Although the Karens' credibility as a fighting force has taken a blow, the image of the military junta — the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) has been even more hadly effected, according to a Western diplo-

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Jeanne Moreau to head Cannes festival jury PARIS (AP) — Active of the second violence of the second viva Maria second viva seco

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Fordan Press Foundation.

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

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Grave violations

MOSCOW HAS received a strong rehuke

when the 33-nation Council of Europe de-

cided Friday to suspend membership talks with Russia until it stops attacking

Chechenya. The Strasbourg-hased council

also condemned "the indiscriminate and

disproportionate use of force" hy the Rus-

sian army in the hreakaway Caucasus repuh-

Ec. No doubt the council's action against

Moscow has been motivated by the grave and

systematic human rights violations in

Chechenya and the erosion of parliamentary

democracy in the Russian Federation. That

also prompted the council to call on the

Russians to amend their constitution to give

parliament more control over the executive

branch. Many human rights activists worl-

dwide have put the hlame for Russia's

unsatisfactory human rights record and lack

of workahle democracy on the disproportion-

ate domination of President Boris Yeltsin

It is obvious also that the council's wrath

was triggered in part by the submissions of

Mr. Sergei Kovalyov, Russia's top human

rights official, that there have been cases of

crucifixion and castration of Chechen prison-

ers of war, that school girls have heen raped

and that draft-age youth have been summari-

iy executed hy advancing Russian soldiers.

The Russian activist also described the West

as "spineless" for expressing only a muted

criticism of his country's atrocities in

Chechenya. One can argue on this character-

isation of the international community's re-

sponse to the crisis in Chechenya, since

Russia's violent campaign against the

Chechens has been going on for months now

Judging "om Russian pronouncements,

Russia's military intervention is not pro-

jected to stop until all Chechen resistance is

wiped out. It is anachronistic in the extreme

that a superpower can still resort to raw

power with apparent impunity to suhjugate

another people who are completely different

from it. International opposition to the rag-

ing war in that Muslim country calls for a

resolute reaction from all countries, includ-

ing those with an economic leverage to

exercise. Otherwise, the Council of Europe's

action would remain abstract and ineffective.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE CAIRO summit, which grouped the leaders of

Jordan, Palestine, Egypt and Israel was described by some as a tool to save Israeli Prime Minister Yithak Rabin and

his Labour Party from Israeli society's blame for failure to

deal with the Palestinians, while others have considered the

summit a means to strengthen Egyptian President Hosni

Mubarak's stand on the eve of his visit to the United States,

said Tareq Masarweh. The Al Ra'i columnist said that the

four leaders had actually sought to save the peace process

from collapse in light of the violence that has erupted over

the past few months in the occupied territories and from

Israel's failure so far to fully implement the Oslo and the

Cairo agreements. The writer said that Israel can go on

claiming that it wants peace and boast before the world that

ii bas reached a peace treaty with Jordan, returning to the

Kingdom its land and water, and it could go on boasting

that it has given the Palestinians self-rule in parts of Palestine and is negotiating with them wider self-rule. But

Israel should realise that peace bas not been achieved yet

since the Palestine question, the core of the Arab-Israeli

conflict, has not been settled and some 3.5 million

Palestinians bave not yet regained their legitimate rights,

he said. He said that there can be no genuine and lasting

peace in the whole region unless the Palestinian people

have won their independence on their soil no matter what

claims Israel continues to announce to the world. The

Cairo summit has tried to save the peace process from

collapse and it is indeed Israel's duty now to ensure the

THE CALL by Egyptian journalist Mohammad Hassanein

Haikal on the Arab Nation to possess nuclear weapons is a

very dengerous one and would not serve the interests of the

Arab people, according to Saleh Qassem, a writer in Al

Ra'i daily Saturday, Haikal wants the Arabs to possess

nuclear arms in order to offset Israel's nuclear power but

the move would eventually cause a balance of terror in the

Middle East, said the writer. The Arabs should take a

lesson from the superpowers, which realised that unless

they resort to reason and come to agreement on ways ot

ensuring peaceful co-existence, they will be following a

course of destruction that spares no nation on the face of

the Earth, said the writer. A safer course of action to be

adopted by the Arab countries, continued the writer, is to

enlist the world community's belp in exercising pressure on

Israel to make it give up its nuclear option and work

towards securing a nuclear free zone in the region, he said.

success of this joint effort.

mandut any serious protests.

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Director General:

Editor-in-Chief:

By Dr. Fahed Fanck

Jordanian-Palestinian trade accord next to nothing

AFTER THREE days of hesitation, the official text of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreements signed on Jan. 26 was released to the Jordanian media. Reading the trade agreement reveals that there was actually no agreement, simply a sort of a letter of intent which is not binding. The prices of shares in Amman stock exchange dropped instead of rising, which was a rational response, because dealers in the market were able to understand the trick.

The trade agreement between Jordan and Palestine does

Sunday's Economic Pulse

not necessarily mean that exchange of goods and services will start tomorrow or very soon. It does not guarantee that the trade will start at all, despite the empty clause which referred to the principle of free trade and freedom of movement of commodities of national origin, fully exempted from customs and all related taxes.

Paragraph (A) of the first article did mention this principle, but paragraph (B) of the same article rendered the free trade clause null and void. It simply stipulated that the implementation will start after agreeing on the list of limited commodities which can be revised every six months with a view to expanding it. We don't know what commodities were included in the first list, and how it will be expanded in the future as long as the Palestinian-Israeli economic agreement determines what commodities the Palestine National Anthority (PNA) can import from Jordan tax exempt. The PNA cannot exceed the list unless its agreement with Israel is amended.

Under the well-known restrictions, the concept of free

trade is meaningless. The commodities initially agreed upon are not known. In fact, we don't know whether there is an agreed list of commodities. It seems that everything is left to the joint committees, which have the habit of failing

If applied, paragraph (C) of the same article is meaningful. It allows the exchange of other goods and services of national origin, which are not included in the list, provided they are subjected to the normal taxes. It seems this is the pattern which will prevail concerning commodities which Israel did not reserve the right to veto.

Article two referred the procedures of trade to a joint committee at the ministerial level to be formed in the future. The third article called for the formation of a similar committee to perform the same task but at the level of experts. This means that trade will continue to be suspended pending the deliberations of those committees, which are not formed yet; and no one can speculate what conclusions they will arrive at if they meet at all.

Even the Palestinian transit activity, which is working normally without any agreement, was agreed to be regulated in accordance with another agreement to be negotiated at some time in the future. It is difficult to speculate when and if such an agreement will be concluded, and what would be its contents.

The exchange of agricultural produce was dealt with in article five. It goes without saying that the subject was left to another joint committee. It is not known if and when

such a committee will be formed or whether it will meet. Article six deals with the free zone area project in the Jordan Valley. The verdict of the agreement was that technical and legal studies concerning this project should

Jordanian fuel products, which Israel was kind enough to allow the Palestinians to import to cover the domestic consumption of the West Bank and Gaza was, according to article seven, left to another agreement to be concluded later on between the Palestinian Energy Department and the Jordanian Ministry of Energy and Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company. Similarly, cement and iron bars, which Israel anthorised the Palestinians to import from Jordan, will wait until a special arrangement is worked out (inshallah) according to article eight.

Article nine decided that electricity connection is worth a

Finally, article 10 solemnly stipulates that this agreement is to go into effect between Jordan on one hand and the West Bank and Gaza in the other, which is astonishing There is in fact no agreement or contract, it is merely an expression of intentions, a contract to enter into contract

which is, by definition, no contract.

Unfortunately we are back to square one. The papers which were signed in front of television cameras are simply a laugh. The agreements simply say: Everything is deferred to the future until it is agreed upon by committees which

could have been

By Edith M. Lederer

LONDON — Mustard gas ple in World War I, More recently, Iraq used mustard Last month, the world

Convention, the first arms control treaty that calls for elimination of a class of weapons, has been ratified by only 21 countries, even though 159 nations signed

When the convention was opened for signatures two years ago, there was optimism that the minimum 65 countries would ratify it so it could come ito force at the earliest possible date: Jan. 13, 1995.

Instead on that date, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali sent letters to nearly 140 countries which haven't ratified the convention, saying, "this is not an acceptable state of affairs for the international Minumity

The Chemical Weapons Convention bans development, production, acquisiweapons to any country Participating countries must destroy their stockpiles within 10 years. although a five-year extension is possible in some

- John Holum director of last year that about 25 countries have chemical

The 21 countries which

But the key laggards are

the United States and Russia, which have the world's biggest chemical weapons arsenals.

Russia don't ratify the convention and get rid of chemical weapons and join in the inspection process. then we don't have a treaty." siad Patricia Lewis. executive director of the London-based Verification Technology Information Centre.

The Clinton administra-

Russia has not started

"It is unlikely that the

Centre of Military Policy at Russia's USA and Canada Institute, told the Associated Press in Moscow. We do not have safe

of chemical weapons. We do not bave a place where to do that. We do not have money," he said. The United States has done test burns of some of

technology for liquidation

its 31,000-tonne chemical stockpile, which is expected to cost \$8.6 billion to eliminate.

But U.S. officials are. concerned that the Russians may be hiding a prog-ramme to produce binary weapons, which combine two chemicals that may be harmless on their own but are deadly when put together.

Republican control of the Senate may also affect the treaty's prospects. Sen, Jesse Helms, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, is highly scep-tical of arms control agree ments. But treaty suppor-ters were encouraed when Sen. Helms delegated the treaty to the ranking Republican, Sen. Ricbard

more international minded. Some senators are also concerned that several countries suspected of developing poison gas -North Korea, Libya, Syria and Egypt - bave not signed the convention. Iraq has not signed either, but its chemical weapons capability is being destroyed under the U.N. Security Council resolution ending

the Gulf war. "I think a lot of people are waiting to see what the United States does," said Michael Krepon, president of the Washington-based Henry L. Stimson Centre, which researches national and international security issues. "If the U.S. opts out of this convention, we're looking at ... a hollow instrament to combat a very serious problem."

The Provisional Organisation for the prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which is responsible for implementing the treaty, is campaigning to get all 184 U.N. members to sign on-

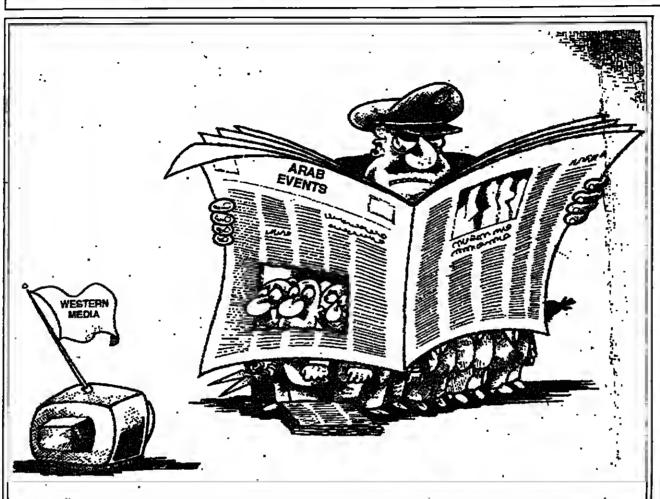
It bopes at least to get 65 countries to ratify the treaty by July 1, so that the convention would become effective by the end of the year, said spokesman Aml Wadhwa.

"There are enough countries on the way. There are a lot of positive indications, but whether that will happen remains to be seen. Lewis, however, believes it will be 1996 "at the car-

liest" before enough countries sign on.

Of the major nuclear powers. France is closest to ratification. Both the Senate and Chamber of Deputies have ratified it, and the final step is for the French President to sign it. A spokeswoman for President Francois Mitterrand said that is expected to happen before the end of the year.

China, one of the first countries to sign the convention, "will submit the document to the legislature for deliberation as soon as possible," according to a foreign ministry spokes-



M. KAHIL

Fight violence with a promise of Palestinian statehood

By Henry Siegman

NEW YORK — The deaths of 19 Israelis in a spicide bombing by Islamic extremists on Jan. 22 convinced many Israelis — including President Ezer Weizman, a longtime dove - that Palestinian self-rule is unworkable. But aborting the peace process and confinuing Israeli military control of the occupied territories will not reduce terrorism, for the extremists fear that Palestinian self-rule will succeed, not that it will

Unfortunately, the emotional impact of the bombngs does not make for rational political discussion. and that is precisely what the terrorists count on.

The fragile Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord reached in 1993 hinges on security for Israel, which depends on Yasser Arafat's ability to keep order in the territories, which in turn depends on the prospects of Palestinian statehood.

If the Palestinians are persuaded that there is no chance of achieving their national aspirations - an independent state, not autonomy under Israeli military control — they will reject Mr. Arafat as a traitor. If he loses credibiiity, there is no way he can maintain any semblance of stability in the territories. and the peace agreement will fall apart.

The 1993 Oslo accords were disintegrating long before the Jan. 22 bombing. Many have attributed this to Mr. Arafat's inentness and autocracy. But there is a more serious reason behind the disintegration: The accords themselves. They fail in two critical respects.

First, they do not address the only issue that is important to Palestinians: The creation of an independent Some observers have

argued that statehood is im-

plicit in the "final stage negotiations" called for within three years of implementation of the agreement. But whether the negotiations will result in statehood is up to Israel. It is understandable that

many Palestinians do not believe that Israeli politics will ever permit their inde-pendence. For the prospect of statehood to have remained viable to them. Israel's leaders would have had to stop pursuing policies that contradict the goal of statehood. Instead, the government's equivocation has exacerbated the conflict between the goals of the Oslo agreement and the expansion of settlements in the occupied territories.

The vast majority of Israelis were repulsed by the massacre of 29 Muslim worshippers in Hebron last year. They saw clearly that settlements are an impedimen! 10 peace. But Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin failed to remove the settlers from Hebron. It is therefore unlikely that he will be able to ogal with the far larger number of settlers in the more complex circumstances he will encounter three years from now.

The Palestinians' scepticism was further fueled by the compromise reached last month which prevents Jews in the West Bank settlement of Efrat from expanding their enclave to one nearby hill but permits them to do so on another

And the government has announced that at least 2,000 new apariments would be built this year near Jerusalem. How could Mr. Arafat possibly establish political credibility in these circumstances?

The other flaw in the accords is the provision for stages of autonomy - first Gaza and Jericho, by other West Bank locales - which are linked to so-called confidence-building measures intended to show the

viability of Palestinian rule. This quid pro quo approach makes sense when Israel deals with governments whose leaders are firmly in control, such as. Egypt's. Jordan's and. Syria's. But it makes no sense when dealing with a weak organisation like the. PLO. It simply invites extremists to sabotage the agreement with confidencedestroying measures.

Can the agreement be saved? Perhaps, but only if Mr. Rabin makes peace a higher priority than getting reelected next year. It is not much of a risk. The present course guarantees that he will lose both the peace and the elections.

This means that the gov ernment must now affirm that Palestinian statehood is the goal of the peace process and proceed quickly down that path, not only to reinvigorate the talks but also to preclude false Palestinian expectations. By setting the limits of statehood. Israel can disabuse those who entertain the notion that a full return to the pre-1967 borders is possi-

The government also must begin removing settlements now, not two years or five years down the road. The next stage of the agreement, the so-called early empowerment of the West Bank, is doomed if all the settlements stay in place not to speak of expanding - for they offer inesstible targets to Islamic Jihad. Hamas and other opponents of the agreement.

Mr. Rabin also must make clear to Israelis that terrorism and instability, endemic to the region, are unrelated to the security issues posed by Palestinian statehood. Safeguards can be built into the peace agreement to prevent Palestinian military aggression, but not individual acts of terrorism. Such acts are made more likely by

Palestinian frustration.

Some will argue that the recent bombings have precluded Palestinian statehood. But that is to argue that peace between Israel and the Palestinians is impossible. The violence led Mr. Rabin to propose building a "security border" to separate the West Bank from Israel. The inevitable conclusion of sucb a separation must be the establishment of a Palesti-

nian state. A genuine reconciliation is perhaps too much to expect after decades of bloodshed. But Oslo was really not about peace, it was ab out separation. Palestinian statehood is not a reward for good behaviour or good intentions. Rather, it is a desperate Israeli need. The alternative is for Israel to remain locked indefinitely in a deadly embrace with 2

million Palestinians. Mr. Rabin had public support for his peace policies even during the most controversial phases — for example, when it was a revealed that he had arranged talks and supported an agreement with Mr. Arafat. Israelis elected him because he offered a clear alternative to the Likud's advocacy of an untenable status quo. If that support has eroded, it is partly because Labour's alternative has lost its sharp

Perhaps political courage and boldness can no longer carry the day. But it is a risk worth taking, for the alternative is the inevitable collapse of the peace process and the certain defeat of Mr. Rabin in 1996. Only a fool can believe that such an outcome would discourage the terrorists.

The writer, former executive director of the American Jewish Congress, is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. He contributed this comment to the New York Times.

Chemical weapons on way out

The Associated Press

killed nearly 100,000 peoand nerve gas against the Kurds. Chemicals remain cheap, deadly weapons.

could have taken a big step to outlaw chemical weapons — but didn't. The Chemical Weapons

tion, stockpiling, retention or transfer of chemical and prohibits their use.

cases. the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, told a congressional committee weapons or can produce them, but he has not identified them all.

have ratified The convention include Germany, Speir Mexico. Australia. Albania and Bulgaria. The five acknowledged nuclear powers — the Un-

ited States, Russia, Britain, among the nations that still haven't signed.

"If the United States and

tion has supported the treaty, but is concerned at the slow pace of Russia's destruction of its chemical arsenal. A 1990 agreement between the United States and the then-Soviet Union required both sides to begin to demolish Chemical weapons by late 1992.

destroying some 40,000 tonnes of weapons, a project expected to cost \$5 to \$6 billion.

chemical weapons convention will be ratified in the near future," Alexander Konovalov, director of the

bers back. Support for the Checher leader. Dzhokha Dudayev, seems thin. A Shatoi, a large village o 15,000 now swollen by re fugees. Gelva Asultanova 55 3 Russian, runs the main cafe. "They'll probably shoot me for saying it," she said. "but what's Dudayev ever done to: me? Where's my pension? It hasn't been paid for two years. What about the roads? The children don't

In Shatoi vil

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Russians for months. Bu

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It is as though this com

go to school....

She pointed to the memorial to the dead of the Great Patriotic War. knocked over, locals said. in a Russian air raid, "I've lived here 35 years." she continued. "They were coming over day and night.

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"We are not connected to dandestine and unknown or the their operations would

not be successful. Meanwhile, police arrested about ten members and supporters of Hamas, said Emad faluji, a leader of the group. He said the arrests were made in the past week, and de not include important fi-

Mr. Rabin said Friday Mr. Arafat fears his life is being directened by Syrian-based alestinian groups opposed bis peace deal with Israel. Mr. Rabin told Israel Television that Mr. Arafat had apressed his concern at the Cairo summit.

Mr. Rabin said Mr. Arafat oned his demand that Damascus stop providing a layen for an alliance of 10 Palestinian groups set on greating the 1993 Israel-LO peace accord. "In the four-way talks I

had a partner, Arafat, to demand that the Syrians Rop. Palestinian terror organisations... (including) samic Jihad, which have wisen in Syria. As strange as it seems, Arafat raised the issue that in at they are attacking bim, that they threaten his life not

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"We understand the situation in which Rakin's coverntion in which Rabin's govern-ment finds itself after the Netanya attack and we are aware of the nbligations on Dr. Shaath said. But we cannot stop vio-

ence with security measures e. In every country of the region it is clear that repression breeds more violence."

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By Dr. Falley, o nothing

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the formed or whether it will be the free zone area project will be concerning this project the project to the concerning this project to the concerning the concerning this project to the concerning the concer

to guerrilas of Energy and Jordan particle eight. THE CAUCASUS mountains rise suddenly from the plain round Grozny like an to article electricity connection to that electricity connection to the connection t cy fortress wall. Heading into the valley towards Shaween Jordan on one had a the other, which is some to: is like entering a giant castle gateway, with loopholes either side ready to rain projectiles down. It is as though this coun-

try was designed for guerrilla war. A determined and skilful guerrilla commander with the right weapons could hold off the Russians for months. But this is not what the people in the mountains want. All those who want to fight are in Grozny. The villages do not want the boyeviki — the Chechen

> up residence because that will brign the Russian bom-Support for the Chechen leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, seems thin. At Shatoi, a large village of 15,000 now swollen by refugees, Gelya Asultanova, 55, a Russian, runs the main cafe. "They'll probably shoot me for saving ahly shoot me for saying she said, "but what's Dndayev ever done for me? Where's my pension? It hasn't been paid for two years. What about the roads? The children don't

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go to school...." She pointed to the memorial to the dead of the Great Patriotic War, knocked over, locals said, in a Russian air raid, "I've lived here 35 years," she continued. "They were coming over day and night.

Why are they bombing me? I'm Russian, for God's sake. If the Russians continued this sort of thing against us then we will

the same number injured," he said.

On Jan. 13, Vakhid Akayev, who used to head persuade the Russians to stop the bombing. He ran head of the Russian Fed-

Through the opposition, the village elders negoti-ated a deal whereby the Russians would stop bombing if Shatoi elected a "temporary Soviet" and hanned Chechen guerrillas from entering the town. The bombing stopped on

Throughout the first half of this month there were heavy bombing raids, said Vakha Hadjimuratov, the prefect of the town. 'About 30 people were killed and

the Philology, Anthropololgy and History Institute in Grozny, went to Urus Martan, 25 km south-west of the capital, a stronghold of the opposition to Mr. Dudayev, in an attempt to into Sergei Stepashin, the eration Security Ministry - heir to the KGB.

be a guerrilla war in the mountains. They won't let them in," said Ahmed, Vakhid's younger brother, who used to head the town's community centre until Mr. Dudayev closed it. "It was because he doesn't believe in culture." he said. "You can't hold in

Chechens hostile

"I don't think there will

A fighter in Samaski, Chechenya, stands beside a Russian armoured vehicle in which seven men were killed the mountains if the villagers won't let you in.

"The only place you might have a guerrilla war is the Vedeno pass" --- the next pass to the easte and

Dr. Baz said Syria, which

Mr. Rabin said the leaders

had formed a new "bloc for

peace." Mr. Peres said Syrian

President Hafez Al Assad

"will have to decide if he is to

between the Cairo summit

and a December meeting in

the Egyptian town of Alexan-

dria between the leaders of

Egypt, Syria and Saudi

The Cairo summit had fo-

cused on "the acceleration of

the Israeli-Palestinian track,

whose lack of progress

threatens the whole of the peace process," Dr. Baz said.

Isreli party that it was vital to

advance on the Palestinian

(Continued from page 1)

we encourage any initiative

that... favours a peaceful

solution among Algerians," Mr. Kehir told the French

Algeria's President

Liamine Zeroual, who last

year tried in vain to negotiate

with detained FIS leaders,

has shown no sign of hending

to the Rome plan. Instead,

he has promised that pres-

idential elections will be held

and France have swung be-

hind the Rome plan, diplo-

mats in Algiers question how

much influence the FIS now

has on armed groups, even if

sources say 30,000 people

have died in the three-year

conflict sparked by cancella-

tion of an election the FIS

But the armed branch of

the FIS, the Islamic Salvation

Army (AIS), has now been

overshadowed by the ruthless

Armed Islamic Group (GIA)

which last December hijack-

Algerian newspapers said

ed an Air France jet.

Western intelligence

negotiations were held.

was poised to win.

While the United States

daily Liberation.

this year.

'We wanted to show the

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the old hide-out of the master of guerrilla warfare.

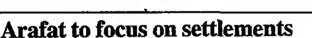
But much has changed since Shamil fought the Russians for a quarter of a

century from the 1830s to the end of the 1850s, Shamil's forces could make their own weapons: the Chechens would need highly sophisticated weapons brought in from outside,

especially ann-aircraft missiles. "If we had antiaircraft missiles there wouldn't be a single Russian soldier in Chechenya" said Ahmad.

Shamil was not con-

strained by national boundartes: the Chechens have a very small area of the mountains. If they move into neighbouring Ingushetia or Dagestan the Russians will bomb there, too -and the locals are likely to take the same view as the villagers - The Inde-



(Continued from page 1)

Shami remained behind hars in Gaza City central prison. Mr. Forah said police detained more members of the group while he was in jail, but he could not tell who they were. Other Islamic Jihad sources said the new detainees were not influential

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"We understand the situation in which Rabin's government finds itself after the Netanya attack and we are aware of the obligations on us," Dr. Shaath said.

But "we cannot stop violence with security measures alone. In every country of the region it is clear that repression breeds more violence.

and in any case we will not create one with Israel in the he warned. "An end to Jewish settleabsence of other Arab par-ties," political advisor Osama ment building, the release of Palestinian prisoners, and the Al Baz, told Radio Monte lifting of the closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip

are measures just as likely to eradicate violence," he said. ignored an open invitation to Dr. Shaath said the summit was the fruit of a compromise since it reaffirmed Israel's attend the Cairo talks, had not been isolated by the "It's useless to arrest peo-ple like us," Mr. Forah, a commitment to apply, in let-We insist on Syria's presence and central role in the peace process," he said.

tion of principles" signed be-tween Israel and the PLO in September 1993. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said on Friday

Middle East peace accords had not yet produced tangihie benefits in the lives of Palestinians and called on donor countries to provide aid they had pledged but not yet delivered.

"It is disturbing that, after agreements have yet to produce tangible benefits in the daily lives of Palestinians," he said.

Addressing the first meeting of 1995 of the U.N. Palestine Rights Committee, he said there had been deep frustration at the continuing lack of improvement in living conditions in the occupied territories, particularly Gaza, where he said unemployment was estimated at over 50 per

"The expectations created by the hundreds of millions of dollars pledged by donors bave not been met. I take this opportunity to appeal once again for the prompt and effective delivery of the assistance already pledged, but not yet delivered, to the

Palestinian people," he said. Dr. Ghali also referred to acts of violence carried out by those opposed to peace," adding: "There is no justification for such deplorable

incidents." They cast a pail over the entire process, but the only way to overcome the doubts and apprehensions they generated was to renew the commitment to finding workable arrangements enabling the two sides to live peaceful-

ly together. He also spoke of "the deep concern generated by the government of Israel's decision to expand settlements in the occupied territories." saying the negotiations which lay ahead and the difficult choices they would bring required patience, perseverance and a spirit of compromise and must be carried out in

good faith. An advisor to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said the unprecedented summit in Cairo on Thursday will not usher in a new Middle East alliance excluding other

Arab parties. We are against any axis

King meets Ben Alawi

In Shatoi village, which did a deal to keep away Russian bombers, Christopher Bellamy found scant support for the rebel leader

(Continued from page 1)

parts from Egypt, Syria and five other Gulf Arab states in an attempt to revive the socalled Damascus Declara-

They will try to finalise accords on joint security and economic cooperation, an Egyptian official said. Egypt, Syria and the Gulf

Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Saudi Arabia. Kuwait, Oman. Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates - signed the Damascus declaration following the 1991 Gulf war.

stay outside the new Middle The declaration, which en-East which is being built." visages wide-ranging coop-But Dr. Baz said the couneration and joint security tries represented in Cairo arrangements in the Gulf, has were not the only ones in the so far remained a dead letter peace camp, which included because of the reluctance of Syria, Lebanon and all Arah GCC countries to see Egypt countries taking part in the He also rejected any link

Egypt's proposals focus on economic cooperation and the creation of an Arab economic community, while Gulf states put the emphasis

in Gulf security. Sunday's meeting will aim

to find a compromise be-

tween two draft accords

proposed by Egypt and the GCC.

on security arrangements, the Egyptian official said. The GCC wants the right to call in foreign, non-Arab troops if any of Arab League members are attacked, he

Ministers will also discuss last Thursday's landmar' Arab-Israeli summit in Cairo. a border dispute between Yemen and Saudi Arabia and ways of improving inter-Arab relations, Egyptian diplomats

Saudis said to give \$30m to PNA

(Continued from page I) Jerusalem Fund, which he

heads.

Algeria recalls Paris envoy

The sources noted that Husseini wanted to circumvent the PA and receive the money directly, out of concern it would never reach Jersalem if it went through Gaza.

Husseini convinced the Saudis the money would all

on Samuay the GIA had now claimed responsibility

for a suicide bomb last Mon-

day in central Algiers that

killed 42 people and wound-

Matin said the GIA claim was

made in "hulletins pasted on

walls" in Kouha, an Islamist

stronghold on the heights of

La Tribune, viewed as one

of the newspapers closest to

the Islamists, said: "The GIA

has of course taken responsi-

bility for the attack. The blast

was the deed of the GIA

which has also called for in-

creased terrorist actions dur-

Algeria's tough decrees on

could carry the text of the

But La Tribune said the

GIA had replaced its chief.

Mahfoud Tajine, with a new.

fiercely hardline militant,

Djamel Zitouni. He is sus-

pected of killing five French

nationals last August in an

attack on that country's di-

plomatic compound in

"apology for terrorism."

Neither newspaper, under

The pro-communist Le

ed nearly 300.

the capital.

ing Ramadan."

GIA statement.

Algiers.

be sirictly accounted for and used for a list of development projects, which he presented

them during his visits. Saudi Prime Minister Saud Faisal and Rivadh Governor Salman Ben Abdul Aziz were reportedly the key Saudi ñgures who negotiated with Husseini.

Husseini and his spokesman were unavailable for comment yesterday.

Syria upholds right to resist

(Continued from page 1)

shall surely appreciate the leading role by Egypt. We see the Egyptians as the leader of the peace process in the Middle East."

Mr. Rabin told Israel Television on Friday that Mr. Arafat expressed fears during the Cairo summit meeting that his life was being threatened by the Syrian-

hased groups. Tishreen said support to Palestinian and Lebanese resistance movements would continue.

"Because Syria supports the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples' struggle and because it calls for a just and comprehensive peace which would end occupation, it is hosting terrorists in Israel's view. Tishreen said.

The paper said military attacks which Israel portrayed as "terrorist" actions were acts of resistance. "If we review Israel's prac-

tices since it was established we will see a hig record of terrorist actions.

Croatia and beyond By Maud S. Beelman fuse to give their names for and Rear Adm. David Mor-

A 'Lofty View'

U.S. military in

The Associated Press BRAC ISLAND, Croatia - Shrouded in secrecy, a

U.S. military team has set up operations on this rocky outcropping in the Adriatic Sea to spy on neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Americans, who are apparently launching reconnaissance aircraft, are part of the growing U.S. involvement in the Balkans. While still refraining from open armed support of the Bosnian government, the United States is increasingly playing a military role at the edges of Europe's worst bloodshed since World War

The approximately 20 Americans, all in civilian clothes, have virtually taken over a large tourist hotel in the village of Bol, this idyllic island's top resort. Accompanied by plainclothes Croatian guardsmen, they mainly keep to themselves, depaning each morning by hus to an undisclosed location.

The Croatian government has not publicly acknowledged their presence, though the hotel would normally close in winter and the nearby small airport is blockaded by Croatian military police. Armed guards turn back the cu-

But the European headquarters of the U.S. military, upon questioning, confirmed that U.S. soldiers and Defence Department contractors are on Brac on a mission named "Lofty View '

It's "an operation to map and survey primary and secondary lines of communication in Bosnia-Herzegovina," Cmdr. Ron Morse, a spokesman in Stungart, Germany, told the Associated Press by telephone. He claimed the operation

was in support of the U.S.led "Provide Promise" effort, which includes the Sarajevo airlift and aid airdrops over Bosnia, suspended last May. Cmdr. Morse would not say how the surveillance might be

used. Local residents, who rerear or government reprisa say the Americans arrived in December and work from the airport, perched on the island's point.

near the airport road. "The Americans are at the airport and they have planes there, said a local Croatian journalist. He insisted on anonymity, saying Croatia's Defence Ministry had warned against mentioning the U.S. military presence.

Loaded and empty dump

trucks can be seen on and

But on Jan. 2, The Independent, mostly satirical weekly feral tribune reported on its search for "the American soldiers" on Brac (pronounced Bratch).

A week later, the U.S. trade journal Aviation Week and Space Technology reported the Central Intelligence Agency (ClA) was launching manned and unmanned reconnaissance aircraft from Brac. It cited similar operations

elsewhere in Croatia, and lasr year in Alhania. U.S. and Albanian sources told the AP last May the CIA had used Gjader air base to fly unmanned spy mission over Serhia and Bosnia. Cmdr. Morse refused to say whether Brac was a CÍA operation.

Pentagon involvement in the Balkans has increased significantly in the past year and that has prompted suspicion.

Britain media alleged in November that the United States was providing intelligence to Bosnian forces. The Pentagon refused to comment at the time.

A U.S. law that took effect last November stopped U.S. monitoring of the arms embargo on Bosnia, and sharing of intelligence on violations. It also mandated planning for how the United States and "military forces of friendly states would train Bosnian givernment troops.

The United States and Croatia signed a military accord on Nov. 29, just days before islanders first noted Americans on Brac. In January, U.S. Undersecretary of Defence for

Policy Walter Slocombe

naval forces in Europe. paid separate visits to Croatia. Cmdr. Morse toured shipvards contracted to repair U.S. ships.

A private U.S. consultant. Military Professional Resources Inc., has contracted to help train Croatia's army State Department Spokeswoman Christine Shelly said in October. "No active-duty U.S. military officer is participating in this venture.

she said. Although there are no U.S. ground forces in Bosnia. retired U.S. Gen. Frederick Franks is the military adviser to the Bosnian Muslim-Croat Federation created under U.S. au-

spices. Ahout 500 U.S. soldiers serve as U.N. peacekeepers in Macedonia. U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry announced last summer plans for closer military cooperation and plans to educate Macedonia military officers in the United States and Europe.

Mr. Perry visited Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria and Romania last summer. promising closer military cooperation and supplies to each.

Western diplomats say they are not worried about what one called the United States' "extensive" presence in the area.

"We see it as encouraging and helping Croatiz towards Western ideals of democracy and avoiding conflict," said one

Although Croatia has said nothing about the Americans on Brac, a weekly newspaper closely tied to the government attempted last week to calm islanders' fears that they will lose tourism just rehounding after Croatia's 1991 war.

Writing in Nedjeljna Dalmacija, military columnist Emil Vidusic said there was no need to worry that "the tourism jewel of central Dalmatia will become foreign military bases guarded by wire... (or) a camp for training special police under the guidance of foreign instructors.

Arab coffers reel under heavy defence spending

fence spending is still sapping the budgets of most Arab states at the expense of de-Velopment despite lower oil income and the peace process with Israel, according to an official report Friday.

Spending on arms purcbases, security and salaries for the army and police con-sumed more than half the total expenditure of some members of the Arab League, while Saudi Arabia and its Gulf neighbours appeared to be the biggest defence spenders in terms of the size of funds.

Although oil earnings fell in 1993 and a breakthrough was achieved int eh Middle East peace process, defence expenditure by the League's 22 members increased to 27.5

WASHINGTON (R)

Saying that 1994 was the best year for U.S. economic growth in a decade, President Bill Clinton challenged Con-

gress Saturday to extend the

prosperity to the lowest-paid

American workers by in-

creasing the minimum wage.

an hour, and yet 2.5 million

Americans are working for

just that amount, and many

of them have children to feed," said Mr. Clinton, who

proposed Friday that the

minimum wage be raised 90-

His proposal is encounter-

ing resistance in the new Re-publican-led Congress, where

there is a widespread convic-tion that it would raise busi-

Drawing a parallel be-tween himself and former

President George Bush, Mr.

Clinton noted in bis weekly

radio speech that in 1990,

Congress raised the minimum

wage by the same amount he

ness costs and kill jobs.

cents over two years.

"Nobody can live on \$4.25

ing in 1993 from 25.66 per cent in 1992 and 24.72 per cent in 1991, said the League's annual report for

Meanwhile expenditure on public services stood at 23.73 per cent of total spending in 1993, social sevices received 24.81 per cent and economic development around 12.15

The report — prepared by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development - gave no figures for 1994 as some members are apparently still spending on contracts final-ised during the previous year.

Clinton challenges Congress

oposes.

If in 1990, a Republican

president and a Democratic

Congress could get the job done, surely in 1995 a Repub-

lican Congress and a Demo-

cratic president can do the

same to uphold the value of

hard work for the American

radio speech was taped in

About 10 million people

roughly 10 per cent of the

labour force, would he direct-

ly or indirectly affected by a

minimum wage hike.
At a White House news

briefing Friday, presidential Press Secretary Mike McCur-

ry denied that "contrast poli-

tics" played a part in Mr.

Clinton's proposal, saying it

was not designed to highlight

a difference between Mr.

on a working class issue.

Mr. Clinton's five-minute

to hike minimum wage

A breakdown showed Sudan spent the most on defence compared to total expenditure, standing ast 54.5 per cent in 1993.

It was followed by Oman, at 45.71 per cent, Yemen 44.55 per cent, Qatar 36 per cent, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 35.89 per cent and Bahrain 34.53 per cent.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, spent 31.47 per cent on defence in 1993 compared with 29.83 per cent in 1992, the report said.

Kuwait, which is rebuilding its army following the 1990 Iraqi invasion, allocated 29.28 per cent to defence in 1993 compared with 14.53 per cent in 1992 and only 5.4 per cent

be able to contrast their vi-

sion of the American future

with the vision of the Repub-

to see both parties get credit

for something "that will ulti-

mately reward those who are

trying to work and who ought

not to be in poverty because

challenge to Congress with a

glowing report on the state of

economic growth in 10 years in the United States. And the

combined rates of unemploy-

ment and inflation are the

lowest they've been in 25

Mr. Clinton said that while

he was proud of this record,

1994 was the best year for

Mr. Clinton prefaced his

they are working.

years," be said.

At the same time Kuwait's public services received 7.49 per cent while 18.97 per cent went to social services and 44.26 per cent to develop-

Services and development, however, were not largely affect some member countries. In Egypt, defence expenditure stood at 19.58 per cent while public services received 52.24 per cent and social services around 21.46

The report gave no figures for embargo-bit Iraq, which was one of the world's biggest arms spenders before it was defeated in the 1991 Gulf

No recent figures were available for Syria, another key arms buyer which has yet

29.03 per cent in 1990 and a similar proportion in 1989.

Algeria, bit by Muslim fundamentalist violence, emerged as the smallest defence spender in the region, with allocations of only 8.23 per cent in 1993 compared to 16.32 per cent for public services, 41 per cent for social services and 2.16 per cent for economie development.

High defence expenditure coupled with low oil revenues and a large bill for the liberation of Kuwait has hit hard the economies of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and their four partners in the Gulf Coopera-

tion Council (GCC). But economic problems bave not dissanded them

to make peace with Israel. Its from pressing ahead with defence allocations totalled plans to bolster their armies to deter a possible fresh Iraqi attack. Such plans have also been prompted by their suspicion of armament programmes in neighbouring

> Such developments pushed the combined GCC budget deficit to a record \$65 billion in 1991 but it eased to around \$29 billion in 1993.

The report gave no figures for the size of defence allocations by Arab countries, but their general expenditure totalled around \$162.9 billion in 1993.

Total spending by the GCC, which also groups Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE, stood at nearly

Greeks prefer security of public

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Thousands of job seekers converged on government offices Friday to apply for 3,000 life-term civil service positions determined by com-

Applicants will be chosen for the posts after exams in April. Another 3,000 applicants will be selected based on their education and pre-

cern," the conservative Athens daily Kathimerini said Friday commenting on the high number of applicants.

The paper added:

Government officials reported that about 150,000

gest city in the north.

Over 50 per cent of the nation's 3.5 million work force are directly or indirectly

The bloated public sector perennial annual deficits. Successive governments have

By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

sector

petitive examinations.

vious work experience. The government said about 170,000 people are expected to apply to take the examina-

"Social phenomenon, which should create con-

"The hage interest is in-dicative of the incertainty and insecurity among youth who seek even in the era of private enterprise, the security of the public sector."

people from the Athens area are expected to take the exam and 20,000 from Salonica, the country' second big-

connected to the public sec-

often used for political partronage, has been consistently blamed for the country's been reluctant to shrink the public sector fearful of the political fallout despite repeated pre-electoral campaign

Morocco invests \$175m to combat drought effect against the drought effect

RABAT (R) — Morocco decided to invest 1.5 billion dirhams (\$175 million) to combat the effects of drought on the nation's agriculture and provide farmers with lican leadership, and Republicans in Congress," he said.
But Mr. McCurry added emergency belp, the Moroccan news agency MAP said that Mr. Clinton would like

The anthoritative thinktank Centre Marocain de Conjoncture (CMC) said the current drought was expected to shrink Morocco's economy in 1995, reversing last year's

"Compared with the exceptional performance of 1994, growth this year will be negative due to the serious

effect on agricultural produc-tion," the CMC said. Experts said the country had received only one-third its normal rainfall so far this year. Only 60 per cent of the acreage reserved for cereals

bad been planted. Morocco bad plentiful

dirhams" was decided during a ministerial meeting chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Latif Filali on Friday, the agency said. "More than 100,000 tonnes

which will cost 1.5 billion

of subsidised feed will be distributed to breeders from next week," MAP said.

It said that 70,000 tonnes of imported barley for byestock consumption was expected to be delivered by Feb. 22 to the ports of Casablanca, Agadir, Tangier and

"Half a million hectares of barley in the fertile southern provinces of Marrakesh, Tensift and Safi are under serious threat if not already lost," the agriculture ministry said.

Morocco is expected to import a growing proportion of its wheat needs this year because of the drought.

The country announced the import of 100,000 tonnes of soft wheat and 40,000 ton-

Clinton and the Republicans the national leadership could not rest on its laurels because rains and an excellent barvest "too many Americans are There will be ways in of 9.4 million tonnes of cerewhich the president and the working harder and not getals last year. An urgent programme nes of barley on Friday. Democrats in Congress will

Trade war flares up

The United States Saturday unnounced sanctions that will louble the price of \$1.08 billion worth of Chinese imports, setting off a trade war perween two of the world's

WASHINGTON (AP) -

piggest trading partners. China responded almost mmediately by raising tariffs 100 per cent on some U.S. mports and taking other re-

aliatory measures against U.S. companies. The Chinese move came ess than an hour after the United States imposed 100 per cent tariffs on 35 categores of Chinese imports cover-

ing everything from fishing rods to cellular telephones. U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said the acion represented the largest trade retaliation ever taken

by the U.S. government. "We cannot stand by while

Peanuts

the interests of our fastest-

YOU BUILT A

GREAT SNOWMAN

growing, most competitive industries are sacrificed in

China," Mr. Kantor said. He said the step was necessary because the administration failed to resolve a dispute with China over the pirating of American computer programmes, movies and

The U.S. tariffs go into effect the 12:01 a.m. on Feb.

The tariffs effectively would cause companies to stop shipping some Chinese products into the United States, which accounts for 40 per cent of China's overseas

In Beijing, the official Xinhua news agency para-phrased an unidentified senior trade official as saying that under the country's foreign trade law, "China will have to take counterretaliatory measures ... to

YOU.

safeguard China's sovereignty and national dignity."

The Chinese official said Beijing plans to raise to 100 -per cent tariffs on U.S. electronic game players and their software, cassette tapes, compact discs, cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, cosmetics, rolls of film and computer-programmed switchboards.

China also will suspend negotiations with U.S. auto companies seeking to set up joint ventures, suspend approval for U.S. companies and their subsidaries to set up holding companies, and withbold permission for U.S. andio-visual manufacturers to set up branchs or repre-

sentative offices. The measures also include breaking off ties with U.S. industry associations such as the Business Software Alliance that have actively

STAND CLOSER .. HE WANTS

TO SHAKE HANDS.

supported Washington's efforts to strengthen China's enforcement of laws and regulations protecting patents, copyrights and trademarks.
The Xinhua report did not

between U.S. and China

say when the Chinese retaliatory sanctions will take U.S. negotiators left Beijing a week ago, after talks broke down and Chinese offi-

cials failed to respond to Mr. Kantor's request that one last effort be made to resolve the issue before Saturday's dead-

The stiff tariffs represent the amount of harm the United States claims American businesses suffer because of China's failure to crack down on the theft of U.S. copyr-

ights and patents.
The \$1.08 billion list was drawn from an initial list of \$2.8 billion in Chinese goods that was published a month ago. Among the bardest hit products are plastics, including picture frames, cellular phones, answering machines, sporting goods and some

The plastics category accounts for \$465 million; answering machines and cellular phones, \$108 million; sporting goods, \$78 million,

Mr. Kantor said the items were selected because they are the fastest-growing Chinese exports to the United States, are mostly made in state-owned factories, and are not components used in the production of U.S. goods - so American businesses would not be burt.

He added that U.S. consumers would not be hurt because they can easily buy these goods from other

THE BETTER HALF,

Drive to market reform endangers democracy — report

STRASBOURG (AFP) -The drive to market reforms in eastern Europe must be restrained if the massive growth in poverty is not to pose a serious threat to democracy in the region, the Conneil of Europe parhamentary assembly warned in a report published Friday.

"It is an illusion to hope that economic growth alone can overcome poverty," the report warned, noting that the number of poor people in central and eastern Europe had risen from eight million to 58 million between 1989, the year that saw the pas-

sing of communism in most of the region, and 1993. Of the problems caused by widespread impoverishment it said: "Democracy is tbreatened because it is

tempting to link their appearance to the establishment of democracy." Deputies of the 33-member

Council of Europe, currently meeting bere for their winter session, urged leaders of central and eastern Europe to "restore the balance of marked forces between the state and the private sector, and not totally liberate mar-ket forces without securing

protective measures for the most vulnerable members of the population: "The unemployed, retired people, and the sick.'

The report, presented to the assembly by Austrian socialist deputy Alfred Gusenbauer, said "some companies, even if running at a loss, should continue to receive aid so as not to increase unemployment.

To fight poverty caused by the market economy, income should be redistributed by means of social insurance and assistance policies, the Council of Europe deputies said.

In the field of health, the benefits offered by the communist system "should be maintained by guaranteeing universal access to medical

The report noted with concern a fall in life expectance over the last five years in much of the region, especial-

ly in Hungary. Though several former communist countries have achieved or are about to achieve associate member status with the European Union, living standards remain low throngbout eastern

Israel no longer eligible for U.S. trade preferences

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Israel will no longer qualify for low duties on its exports to the United States under special trade benefits intended for developing countries, the White House said Friday. An order by President Bill Clinton said Israeli per capita gross national pro-

under U.S. law for the socalled generalised system of preferences (GSP). The Bahamas was also removed from the list under the GSP, which provids lower tariffs for goods imported from eligible countries.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5, 1995

By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) In your desire to have a good time. be careful that you do not force good friends who may have more

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A fine day to get any civic deties accomplished in an efficient and most excellent matter. Thus you gain much prestige, but inadvertence could be unfortunate. GEMINE (May 21 to June 21) Getting out into the fine teeming

world of activity and progress early today is your best course of action, since there is every opportunity to meet wonderful people and learn about new trends and systems. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A good opportunity is yours now to confer with trusted advisors and experts who can solve any problems may be yours at this time. Save this evening for something you really enjoy.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Getting together informally with associates on this free day can bring about fine rapport and can do more to help your chances for success in the future.

VIRGO: (Angust 22 to September 22) A very good day to put all those tasks behind you that you have been accumulating, especially if you employ labour saving devices on your tasks. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Having a wonderful time today should be uppermost in your mind. Tonight also, so be sure you see a beautician or barber early in the day and have fun. SCORFIO: (October 23 to November 21) Getting your boat in better order and acrupulously cleaned should be uppermost in your mind today. Strive for greater harmony with those living with you. SAGIITARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day for much activity, first getting surroundings in order, then shopping, visiting good friends, and seeing those difficult to reach during the week. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study well your

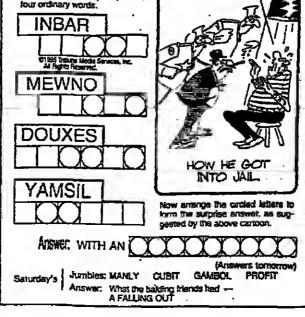
surroundings. Real estate in the morning and plan just what has to be done in order to increase its value and comfort. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think over carefully just what it is you want most in life from a personal angle and then take the right steps that will lead you in such direction.

FISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Its very important that whatever you do today be ethical, since behind-the-scenes activity can be very tiring and only if you work on God's side can it be successful.

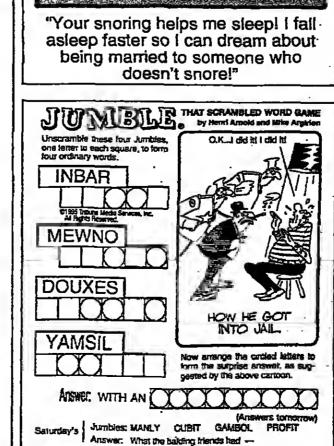
Birthstone of February: Amethyst - Onyx

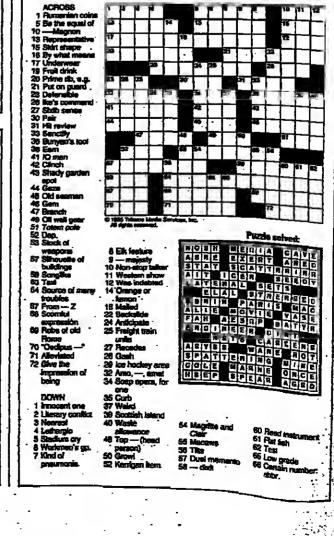
THE Daily Crossword by Joan D. Beef

INBAR MEWNO



Andy Capp ASS YOU MET WHO Mutt'n'Jeff I WAS IN THE WOODS SITTING ON AND I PICKED UP YOU COLD? TOP OF THE A GOOD BLACK AND WHITE PUSSY CAT BUT IT WASN'T A PUSSY







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A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Banks need JD180m to raise capital

☆☆ Raising the capital of Jordanian banks to JD 20 million will only affect 14 hanks as the Arab Bank's capital is far more than what the Central Bank requires and the capital of the Jordan Gulf Bank is already at JD 20 million. By excluding non-Jordanian banks as well as the Housing Bank, which bas an authorised capital of ID 18 million but a paid-up capital of JD 12 million, the remaining 14 banks should either merge or raise more money to meet the new level. Raising more money would require ID 180 million at the most (Al Aswag).

** With a subscription that was nearly 83 times over the number of shares offered for the public, Nutri Dar decided to allocate to each subscriber 1.2090 per cent of the shares applied for. Also, the com-pany decided to deduct the amount of the second instalment, meaning that each sharebolder bad settled 50 per cent of the JD 1 par value. Fouoders will be paying the second instalment within 60 days from Jan. 31, 1995. The company bas offered one million shares for public subscription but received applications from 3,200 subscribers for 82.742,548 of sbares. The company started returning advance payments to investors Saturday (Al Ra'i).

भागात है 🕿 * A team of engineers (Min 12.2) from the Municipality of ai rentege Greater Amman is in Turkey 151 EEF LE for a 20-day training period on building tunnels. A tender o de per will be launched soon to coo-J. மாகை: struct a tunnel that would-People: Wi link Wadi Al Haddadeh with King Hussein Street - near the Palace of Justice through Jabel Al Qala' ் பிங்கி (Citadel) (Al Dustour).

** On the first day of Ramadan, inspectors from the Ministry of Supply registered 185 violations, 99 of : is possible in which were in Amman. Violations in Zarqa were 22, Balqa 16 and Irbid 13 (Al and have been. Dustour). intrigued h:

* The Jordan Electricity Authority bas sent a memorandum to the Council of Ministers pointing out its inability to implement projects from the "rural fils" fund during the 1995-1997 period. The authority said there was no enough money to cover the cost of electrifying rural communities. The memorandum noted that the expected revenue from the "rural fils" until the year 2000 could be about JD 5.4 million and that loans would not be appropri-The trian : Jecade. DE ate because of the interest burden. The expected cost is income and k JD 37.5 million (Sawt Al

☆☆ Many investors are eager to set up a number of touristie projects in the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea area but their inability to deter-To allow by mine the water level at the sea, after the completion of the Dead-Red Canal project, relativity dass is impeding them. Economic sources said that the Israelis have specifically determined Lancome to see and take of k the new level and are implementing many projects, mainly a 600-room hotel on the shore of the Dead Sea (Al

Jeanne Moreau to head Cannes ** The FZC earned a total of JD 4.2 million last year but Acres rent and J.5 million in recurrent expenditure and JD 4.1 in capital spending. The total loreau star of m weight of goods entering the free zones last year was 537,000 tonnes whereas goods weighing 583,000 tonnes were taken out of the free zones to either other. May like ness weighing 583,000 tonness weighing 583,000 tonness weighing 583,000 tonness to either other countries or the local market.

According to Mr. Jaghbeer, there are 865 investors as the According to Mr. Jaghbeer, there are 865 investors at the free zones. 739 of whom are from the commercial from the commercial sector, and director are investors and 87 and director in an investors in car business.

Mr. Jagibeer said the conversident of the conversion was studying the conversion of the private sector to serve transit passengers (Al Ra'i).

Asia's oil refiners expect better margins this year

SINGAPORE (AFP) -Asia's petroleum refining margins, down last year to their lowest levels in a decade, should recover in 1995 despite stiffer regional competition, according to an industry poil.

The optimism was based on the region's buoyant economie fundamentals and sustained oil consumption growth, according to the poll among petroleum refiners and traders in Singapore, Asia's premier oil refining centre.

Singapore Oil Report, a local petroleum journal which conducted the poll, said last year's downturn was widely viewed "as an aberration of a longer term upward trend rather than a watershed marking the start of a bear

The journal quoted industry officials as saying that some of the factors responsible for weak margins - China's long import ban, crude's unusual strength over products belped by conflict in Yemen and Nigeria, drought in Northeast Asia - were all unlikely to be repeated in

ARAB BANK

THE HOUSING BANK

JORDAN KUMAIT BANK JORDAN CULF BANK JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK

BANK OF JORDAN MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK

AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT

PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.

BEIT ELMAL SAVINGEINVESTMENT FOR BODSING

SECTOR

JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER /NEW JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES UNITED HIDDLE FAST & COMMODORE HOTELS

SERVICES SECTOR

JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES
THE JORDAN CEMENT PACTORIES
THE ARAB POTASE/NEW
JORDAN PETROLEOM REFINARY
THE JORDAN MORSTED HILLS
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING
JORDAN OALRY
RAFIA INDUSTRIES
DAN AL DANA OPERATORIES

ARAB ALUMINIUM IBDUSTRY LIVESTOCK & POULTRY ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING

JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCR/JIMCO

UNITVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES

GRAND TOTAL

DAR AL DAWA OFVELOPHENT & INVESTMENT

NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE HANDFACTURING ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS

DAM INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.

INODSTRIAL SECTOR

TORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING

It said that the industry's fundamentals remained strong, with demand in the region still steaming ahead at

three to four per cent. Oil use would also benefir from the continued economic recovery in the West and Japan, mopping up some of the excess products that last year came out to the East and helped undermine margins.

Ultimately, fundamentals rule. Distortions may occur from time to time but if demand is growing at a faster rate than supply, the outlook will generally be good," said Anthony West, vice-president of J.P. Morgan's Commodity Derivatives

The forward refining mar-gins offered by J.P. Morgan through 1995 in mid-January were generally higher than the margins it quoted for last

"The trend is for world demand to rise with supply not keeping pace. Some capacity is coming up in Asia. but not so in the U.S. and the whole should be about a capacity.

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PRICE

ADMIN FINANCIAL MARKET

BOSING BANK CENTER ANSWAN - SEMISANI

TELEPROME: 660170 / 663170

ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 04/02/1995

(U.S.) dollar better than last year," said Enrico Sismondo, managing director of the Caltex Group,

On the average, refiners covered by the poll said key crudes would vield 50 cents to a dollar per barrel more than last year's \$1.50 to \$2.50.

Traders with the other refiners, Shell, Esse, Mobil, Singapore Petroleum Company and British Petroleum hold similar views about market fundamentals eventually overruling short term move-

China's recent return to the market after having been kept out by an import ban has also raised bopes that its buying spree would resume.

The other big product exporters Japan and South Korea were also gearing up for more exports in the belief that Asia would face an increasing shortage of refining capacity.

Furthermore, significant increases in product output could be expected from Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia and the Philippines on fuller Europe. I think margins on operation of recently-added

184.500 154.500 3.600 3.560 1.476 1.500 2.640 2.820 5.950 5.900

INDEX NUMBER: 158.1-

INDEX HUMBER: 130.50 CHARGE : -0.06%

3.000 1.470 3.760 3.120

1.420 1.390 3.220

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5.050 9.500 7.650 4.650 2.100

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2.920 5.050 9.500 7.650 4.760 2.160

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CHANGE

CHANGE

4.000 3.940 2.070 2.060

INDEX NUMBER: 123.97

INDEX NUMBER: 142.03

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France's Total close to winning major Yemen gas export deal

SANAA (R) — Yemen has fasting period was starting. selected the French oil company Total as the leading candidate in a multibilliondollar gas deal but is expected to invite the firm to improve its offer, a pro-

government newspaper said. The 22 May newspaper. the mouthpiece of the General People's Congress of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, said in its weekly edition which appeared Friday that a group of consultants recommended Total. It did not mendon the terms of the offer.

At Total in Paris, a spokeswoman said she had no official confirmation on the deal. But given the interest shown by the Yemeni government in our offer we would not be surprised," she said. She could not indicate how long final negotiations would last. noting the Ramadan religious

Total, and the U.S. firms Enron Corp and Hunt Oil bve been in bot competition for the project to build a gas pipeline and liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant and export terminal expected to cost ab-

out \$2.5 billion. Proven gas reserves in the Marib area in northern Yemen are estimated at more than 15 trillion cubic feet (425 billion cubic metres). Local newspapers said last month the deal was expected to be signed soon.

The project involves a

pipeline from Marib stretching hundreds of kilometres either west to the Red Sea or south to the Arabian Sea, and another from Safir in the

Marib to the capital Sanaa. It also involves a liquefaction plant with an annual capacity of five million tonnes of LNG and an export terminal.

The May 22 newspaper quoted sources as saying the government appointed consultants chose Total because it offered the most revenue, involved the government at all stages of production, and committed Total to interest-

free loans in the early capital-

intensive stages of the pro-

But the newspaper said the government was expected to invite Total to "improve the offer which is considered the best." It gave no more de-

The deal has been under consideration for at least two years in complex manoeuvring between the oil firms and the Yemeni government.

At one stage in 1993, Enron was provisionally awarded the contract and

Hunt, which discovered the gas in the Marib area, still maintains it has not agreed to anyone else shipping its discoveries our by pipeline or LNG.

The newspaper said the lotal offer was flexible enough to allow the three main bidders - Total, Enron and Hunt — to help operate it if they wished.

For Yemen, finding an international partner is only half the battle. The need to find reliable customers willing to make a 20- to 25-year commitment is paramount.

The Yemeni project is competing with three largescale gas projects in Qatar and one in Oman, together with an Abu Dhabi project that is already up and running, as well as other projects planned in the Asia-Pacific

Beirut bourse gets \$1 million to start up

BEIRUT (R) - Revival of the Beirut Stock Exchange Gabriel Sehnaoui said early after an Il-year gap has moved a step closer when the government approved nearly \$1 million ro finance its reopening.

A cabinet source said the government voted the 1.5 billion Lebanese liras (\$913,000) sum for the stock exchange committee at its weekly meeting.

The comminee has been waiting for the money, promised by the finance ministry last year, to rent and equip trading floor premises.

Stock exchange chairman in January he hoped the exchange would reopen in two or three months if the money was approved soon by the cabinet.

Mr. Sebnaoui was not immediately available for comment on the government's decision. The committee was

appointed by the government iast July to revive the Beirut Stock Exchange, the Middle East's second oldest, which shut in 1983 during Leba-

It is still revising the exebange's pre-war regulations in preparation for reopening. Revival of the exchange is central to the plans of billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri to win back Beirut's

role as a major Middle East

financial centre. Officials hope it will become a conduit for a major inflow of investment funds to help Lebanon's postwar re-

construction. The Beirut Stock Exchange was founded in the 1930s as the second oldest bourse in the Middle East

before Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war. Brokers expect only three or four shares to be actively traded when it reopens, bur they say new flotations are being prepared. It is not yet clear whether shares in Solidere, Lebanon's

It traded some 40 stocks

after Alexandria.

biggest company which is rebuilding central Beirut, will be traded on the official stock exchange when it reopens or wbether they will continue to be quoted on a private Beirut secondary market set up last

Dalgety makes \$700m plunge into dog, cat food

LONDON (AP) - Betting that dog and cat food offer it a brighter future than potato ehips. Dalgety PLC said Friday it will pay \$700 million for the European pet food business of Quaker Oats Co.

This will make Dalgety the no. 2 pet food company in Europe, after the U.S. giant Mars, in a market now worth \$4.9 billion (\$7.8 billion) 8

year and growing.

Dalgety will acquire two important brands, Felix car foods and Fido dog foods, and combine them with its spillers foods business, which sells cuisine for European

Dalgety plans to finance the deal through asset sales in unrelated food businesses and by raising £186 million (\$298 million) in a cash call to shareholders.

Dalgety predicted it can get £300 million (\$480 mil-

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lion) by selling Golden Wonder, which makes snack foods such as potato chips, and Homepride Foods, which sells cooking sauces and baking mixes.

Dalgety's moves mirror those by others in an industry where the big players are increasingly seeking to specialise in a small range of

products rather than trying to

supply their customers with a

bit of everything. "We've expressed an interest in two of our businesses, food ingredients and pet foods," Dalgery's chief executive, Richard Jothier, said in a telephone interview. "They're European markets and markets

with growth in them." Quaker Qats' decision to sell its European pet foods is based on a similar strategy. Chairman William Smithburg

called the deal "an important

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ment of Quaker's portfolio," which will emphasise sales of grain-based products and "Good-Fory-You" bever-

step in the evolving realign-

Quaker put the European pet food business on the market late last year, take the time it acquired Snapple Beverage Co. for \$1.7 billion. London-based Dalgety did

not identify any potential customers for the subsidiaries it will sell, but Mr. Clothier said there should be no lack of interest — among other food giants seeking to specialise in those respective

Analysts mentioned snack food giants Pepsico, of the United States, and United Biscuits, of Britain, as possible bidders for Golden Wonder, and the Anglo-Dutch consumer products group Unilever or U.S.-based Heinz as possible bidders for Homepride Foods. Investors applauded the

transaction, pushing Dalgety's stock up by about 5.8 per cent, to 420 pence (\$6.72) a share on the London Stock Exchange.

Some analysts believed the price paid by Dalgety was too

"I'd rather be a Quaker stockholder," said Michaell Bourke, an associate director at the brokerage Panmure Gordon and Co. Ltd. in London. "It's a better deal for Quaker than for Dalgety."

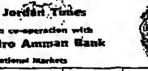
After integrating Quaker operations into its business, a process that could involve losses of some overlapping jobs. Dalgety expects that within three years, the deal will be bringing in £40 million (\$64 million) in benefits annually.

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Сигтерсу	New York Close Day/2/95	New York Close 12/3/95
Sterling Found	1.5825	1.5635
Dealsche Mark	1.5180	1.5270
Swiss Franc	1.2848	1.2935
French Frant	S. 2610	S. 2930
Japanese Yea	99.43	99.25
European Carreny Link	1.2449	1.2338
USD For STG		

Spreamoncy Interest Autres		Duce: 4/2/1995		
Currency	I MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Deller	5.81	6.12	6.50	7.12
Sterling Pound	6.15	6.50	6.41	6.56
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.81	5.00	5.43
Swips Franc	3,50	3.68	3,93	4.15
French Franc	5.37	5.62	6.00	6.50
Јарапчее Уси	2.06	2.06	2.12	2.25
European Currency Unit	5.68	5.93	6.31	6.27

Control Hank of Juralem Ha	change Rate Belletin Det	* 2/2/19
Сигтейсу	SH	Office

U.S. Dollar	0.7018	0.7030
Starling Pound	1,0952	1.1001
Deutsche Mark	0.4584	0.4607
Swins Franc	0.5416	0.5443
French Franc	6.1323	0.1350
Japanese Yea*	0.7013	6.7048
Datch Gullder	0.4090	8.4110
Italian Lira*	0.0434	0.0436
Deher Currenules	Date:4/2/1995	
Carreity	Ble	Offer
Bakraini Diper	1,8430	1.8630
Lehapere Lica*	0,841925	0.042815
Soudi Riyal	0.1462	0.1417
Kwelti Dinar	2.3280	1.3650
Qutari Filysi	0.1916	0.1935
Egyptian Found	0.2000	£.2139
Ossani Riyal	1.2020	1.8260 '
UAS Dirimen	0.1902	0.1925
Greek Drackma*	0.7750	0.5150
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press, following his victories over Edberg at Wimhledon and Larsson at Copenhagen last year. mate's victory, and the roars of support from the crowd from the second set onwards, Ferterlein came back from a 6-1 first set thrashing to beat Edberg 1-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-3. trouble, their Russian rivals

were brushing Belgium aside. Andrei Chesnokov set the pace with a straight sets victory over Filip Dewulf, but rising star Yevgeny Kafelni-kov, the world number 10,

2-0 up against Croatia, Au-

stria were all square with

Spain and the United States

Australia was postponed for

a day because of overnight

rain — raising fears that South Africa's first World

Group encounter in 16 years

But the shock of the day

came from Copenhagen, the

drama starting mid-morning

with the withdrawal of Lars-

son complaining of stomach

Bjoerkman, lacking confi-

dence on his debut, was out-

gunned by Carlsen's superior

service as the Dane came

from a set down to win 4-6,

Swede Killer" by the Danish

Bnoved up by his team-

While Sweden were in

Cantona to star in razor ads

PARIS (AP) - He's been suspended for the season for kicking a fan, hut Manchester United star Eric Cantona

will still get a starring role this weekend, as pitchman for

Bic razors. Bic's advertising agency, Euro-RSCG, said Friday that the company had decided to go ahead with the

new TV ad campaign despite the French forward's striker's suspension for the rest of the English season for a karate-kick assault on a heckler Jan. 25. The contract with

Cantona was signed several months ago, but the ads were not filmed until last weekend, after the kicking incident,

Yugoslavia make winning return from exile

HONG KONG (R) - Yugoslavia returned from three

years in soccer exile to win the four-nation lunar New Year Tournament in Hong Kong on Salurday with a 1-0 win over

South Korea. Yugoslavia have been harred from interna-tional competition because of United Nations sanctions,

but were given special clearance to play in this exhibition

event although they are still officially banned by world

governing body FIFA. The Yugoslavs, who have played

only a handful of friendly matches during the ban,

outplayed the inexperienced South Korean Olympic side.

Dragan Stojkovie, who now plays for Nagoya Grampus

Eight in Japan, was their outstanding player as Darko

Kovacevic scored the winner with a glancing header that

went in off defender Choi Yoon-Yeol after 50 minutes.

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6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

may be lost by forfeit.

South Africa's clash with

were tied with France.

Davis Cup holders head for early exit

PARIS (AFP) - Sweden, to beat Kris Goossens, rankthe Davis Cup holders, were heading for a shock exit from ed 160, in three hours. Chesnokov, who eele-brated his 29th birthday on the first round of the 1995 campaign, after trailing Denmark 2-0 on Friday's open-Thursday, outplayed Dewulf ing day. in the opening set, but the two men twice swapped ser-Jouas Bjoerkman, a late replacement for Magnus vice breaks in the second set before Chesnokov made the Larsson was beaten by Ken-

neth Carlsen, and mighty Stedecisive break in the ninth fan Edberg was toppled by rank outsider Frederik Fet-Dewulf missed his chance to get back into the match in In other World Group ties, the final set after taking a 5-4 lead and earning two set Russia, last year's losing fina-lists, took a 2-0 lead over noints in the 10th game, be-Belgium, Michael Stich and fore Chesnokov's excellent Boris Becker put Germany returns on the clay court

averted the danger. Kafelnikov, a quarterfinalist in the recent Australian Open, was tested throughout his match by Goossens, a losing finalist in the Belgian national cham-

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Codric Pioline got France off on the right foot with a 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Todd Martin, but former world number one Jim Courier recouped a point for the hosts with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 victory

over Guy Forget. Despite the absence of Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, the United States were heavy favourites to beat the French, and Pioline's vic-

tory was a real morale-After dropping his serve in the 11th game of the first set, Martin floundered. But he

fought back to 4-5 in the third and had Pioline two break points down before the Frenchman served out the "I was a little bit worried at

the end," French captain Yanniek Noah admitted. "It's hard to finish and Cedric was really tense. It was his first big game in Davis Cup, and I was really happy with how he came back after 15-

Conrier brought the French down to earth with a bump. His victory took just

an hour and a half and ran had to come from a set down Forget ragged. Forget was slated to play doubles on Saturday with Olivier Delaitre against the U.S. duo of Jared Palmer and Richey Renneberg — the Australian Open doubles champions.

In Karlsruhe, Stich overpowered Goran Ivanisevic 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, while Becker, back in Davis Cup action after two years away, had a much easier game against Sasa Hirszon, the

world number 329. Stich said the turning point in his match came in the opening set.

'If Goran had won the tie-break, it would probably have been very, very closed, he admitted.

Ivanisevic, whose team are making their debut in the World Group, appeared to run out of steam as the match

Stich said: "When you are playing fora the first time in the World Group, the pressure is greater than in a normal tournament. "Towards the end, his ser-

vice became weaker and weaker, and his service is a major part of his game." Austria and Spain were locked in a I-1 draw after the expected victories for Thomas Muster and Sergi Bruguera.

French Open champion, put the Spanish in front by crushing Gilbert Schaller, only for Muster to similarly dispatch Carlos Costa in

straight sets. Bruguera, serving magnificently and dictating the pace throughout his match, needed only 100 minutes to

finish the joh. The sheer variety of the Spaniard'a game highlighted the difference between a play in the top 10 and one languishing around the 50s.

Struggling Celtics fight among themselves

BOSTON (AFP) — Boston Celtics point guards Sherman Douglas and David Wesley had to be pulled apart at practice on Friday after trading shoves and punches. The incident was just one more problem for the struggling

Celtics, who have lost seven of their last eight games.

Coach Chris Ford has tried to shake up the team by removing co-captains Dominique Wilkins and Dee Brown

from the starting line-up for the past two games. Friday's

tussle came during an intense intra-squad practice game. When several players collided, Douglas and Wesley started

MUNICH (R) — Bayern Munich's Swiss international Alain Sutter has been forced to go into hospital, dealing the European Cup quarter-finalists another major blow before

this month's restart of the German season. Sutter com-

plained of feeling very weak during Bayern's training camp

in Portugal this week and has returned to Germany for tests, the club said on Friday. He is likely to miss the Fehruary 18 restart of the Bundesliga after the winter

hreak. Bayern have been hit by injuries to key players in recent weeks. Captain Lothar Matthaeus is unlikely to play

again this season after rupturing an Achilles tendon and French international striker Jean-Pierre Papin will also be

out for the important first weeks of the second half of the

Sutter Illness setback for Bayern

Donbles partner Emilio Sanchez commented: "Bruguera is in different class." Muster squared the tie af-

SPORTS IN BRIEF

ter two hours with Costa, breaking his opponent in the ninth game of the first two sets for 5-4, and then again

for 2-1 in the third before serving out for the match. In Durban, South Africa's match was hit by rain at the

Westridge Park venne. "The court is completely unplayable," said South Afri-can Marcus Ondruska, who was due to play the first singles match against Patrick Rafter.

The newly-laid hardcourt started breaking up after the heavy rain infiltrated the covers and soaked into the sur-

International Tennis Federation president Brian Tobin said: "It is not beyond the realms of reality that South Africa may have to forfeit, but obviously we will give the court every chance to dry out."

Match referee Javier San-Sierra said a decision will be made whether to proceed with the clash after the players have warmed up on Satur-

Switzerland's Marc Rosset retired hurt during his match against Dutchman Jacco Eltingh in Geneva and will be out of action for about three

Rosset, the Barcelona Olympic champion, has broken a bone in his right foot.

He was leading one set to love and was 2-3 down in the second when he retired,

handing Eltingh the match. Rosset will be repalced by Lorenzo Manta, ranked 236th in the world, in Saturday's doubles, alongside Jakob Hlasek. His replacement for Sunday's reverse singles rubber has yet to be named.

The tie stands at 1-1 as Hlasek later beat the Nether-lands' Richard Krajicek.

the high-powered stars In the other European tie, Italy are drawing 1-1 with the from the 49ers and Cowboys on the NFC side, the Czech Republic. AFC, which hasn't won a Super Bowl since the Los

Date, Davenport in Tokyo finals

TOKYO (AP) - Hardhitting American Lindsay Davenport will meet Japan's No. 1 female player, Kimiko Date, in the singles final of the Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament.

Young,

Aikman

forces in

All-Star

HONOLULU (AP) -Now the 49ers and Cow

boys get to gang up on the

Generally conceded to

be the National Football League's two best teams,

San Francisco and Dallas

also dominate the NFC ros-

ter for Sunday's Pro Bowl.

That presents scenarios

such as the 49ers' Steve

Young heading off to the NFC bench and the AFC defense sighing a sigh of

relief, only to see the Cow-

boy's Troy Aikman trot on

"It's a great team," said

comprise the NFC

coach Barry Switzer, who

along with his Dallas assis-

staff, "but of course the AFC also has a great

Dallas will have the most

players in the game, 10. Eleven Cowhoys were

voted onto the All-Star

squad, but running back

because of an injury.

Emmitt Smith isn't playing

The 49ers had nine play-

ers selected in the three-

way balloting by fans and

the league's coaches and

players. Young, however, lost his favourite target and

the NFC lost its top wide

who would have been mak-

ing his ninth consecutive

Pro Bowl appearance, had

to pull out because of a

slight separation in his left

Other 49ers in the start-

ing lineup for the 25th re-

newal of the Pro Bowl are

tight end Brent Jones, cor-

nerback Deion Sanders and

free safety Merton Hanks.

Dallas' starters on

offense are fullback Daryl

Johnston, tight end Jay

Novacek, center John Step-

noski and guard Nate New-

ton. Cowboys slated to

open on defense are end

Charles Haley, tackle Leon

Left and safety Darren

Woodson. Wide receiver

Michael Irvin, voted into

the game as a reserve, also

juries to Rice and Sterling

The Dallas-San Francis

co combine gives Mark Tuinei, an 11-year NFL

veteran tackle with the

cowboys who'll be appear-

ing in his first Pro Bowl, an

opportunity to line up

alongside an old teammate

at the University of

Hawaii, 49ers' guard Jesse Sapolu, who is in the All-

Star game for the second

Angeles Raiders did it in 1984, actually has matched np fairly well with the NFC in the Pro Bowl over that

The AFC has won five of

the last 11 games, although the NFC won 17-3 a year

ago and leads the series 14-10.

Bill Cowher, like Swit-

zer, is making his Pro Bowl debut, and his Pittsburgh

staff are the AFC coaches

ta with an impressive three

some of its own - De

nver's John Elway, New

England's Drew Bledsoe

and the Los Angeles Raid-

ers' Jeff Hostetler. Miami's

Dan Marino was voted in as the starter, but Marino is

ailing and can't play and Hostetler replaced him on

The Pittsburgh Steelers

who lost to San Diego in

the AFC title game, had six

players voted into the Pro

Bowl, most for the confer-

the roster.

The AFC quarterback corps will counter the NFC trio of Young, Aikman and Warren Moon of Minneso-

Despite the presence of

consecutive year.

same span

Sharpe of Green Bay.

shoulder.

receiver when Jerry Rice

to replace him.

tants

game

join

Fifth-seeded Date became the first Iananese player to reach the final of the tournament after trouncing eighthseeded Iva Majoli of Croatia, 6-1, 6-4 Saturday. Third-seeded Davenport

overwhelmed seventh-seeded Magdalena Maleeva of Bul-garia 6-3, 6-2, on the carpet court at Tokyo Metropolitan

Gym.
"I thought 1 played pretty well today. I was able to take the ball early, attack and hit the ball clean. I thought I was able to dictate the pace of the match and move her around a lot more than she could do with me," said Davenport, the world No. 6.

Date, No. 10 in the world, said: "I was able to concentrate very well. That's the most important thing for me. I started with my pace and kept it throughout.

Despite a doublefauit, her second of the match, Majoh was able to keep the fourth game of the first set.

In the second set, Date, firing well-controlled passing shots, led 4-1 hut Majoli fought back, winning the next three games to tie 4-4, but Date recovered to win the

match in 1 hour, 3 minutes. Date took the fifth game of the first set and the second game of the second set at love.

"She (Date) played really well. 1 could not concentrate." said Majoli, whose well-placed passing shots of the earlier rounds dis-

appeared Saturday.
Davenport, 18, and 19year-old Maleeva were tied at 3-3 in the first set before Davenport won the next three games, the seventh game at love.

Davenport dominated the second set, firing well-placed passing and cross-court shots, breaking in the fourth and eighth games. Maleeva bailed Daven-

port, saying: "She serviced pretty well and returned well in both the first and second sets. She did not miss, She played a steady match and everything was well."
"I think it will be a very

tough match against Kimiko in the final. Obviously she's in her home country, and the fans will be heavily favoring her to win, but that is pressure on her as well. The win-



Lindsay Davenport

handles the situation best," Davenport added. Mary Pierce of France, who won the Australian

Open last week, and Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez of Spain made quick exits from the quarterfinals Friday. The singles champion takes

home \$148,500 and the runner-up \$66,500 from the total purse of \$806,250.

Bradtke advances to fin-In Auckland, New Zea-

land, Australian Nicole Bradtke scored a pair of victories over seeded players Saturday to move into the final of the \$107,500 Amway Classie women's tennis tournament.

Bradtke, who needed a wild card into the tournament, first ousted top-seeded Julie Halard of France 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 in a quarterfinal that began Friday night but was suspended in the first set. because of rain.

After a two-hour break, Bradtke came back on court to outlast Italian No. 6 seed Silvia Farina 7-5, 2-6, 6-3, in a two-hour baseline struggle.

Bradtke, 25, who as Nicole Provis was a French Open semifinalist, will now meet. defending champion Ginger Helgeson Nielsen of the United States in Sunday's final.

The No. 2 seed downed Ukraine's seventb-seeded the other semifinal. "I've won a lot of matches by just hanging in there," Bradtke said.

"I have a reasonable serve and good ground strokes and I can volley, so on a given day, if I'm going well, I can

be a danger." Bradtke is making a return to the WTA Tour after taking time off last year following her marriage to Australian Olympie games basketball player Mark Bradtke.

Helgeson Nielsen's success in reaching her second WTA Tour final came with a touch of controversy.

The American, who is noted for her lengthy preparation between points, was given a point penalty for the first time in her career.

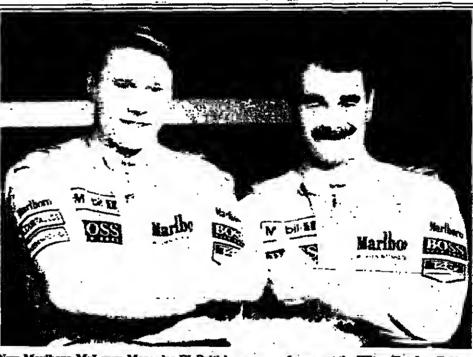
It came as the 25-year-old American was leading 4-1 in the second set, but down 0-30. She went on to drop the

Medvedevs rallied to 4-4 only to lose the next two games and the match. She complained about the

"ridiculous" time Helgeson Neilsen took to serve, saying: "I could have gone to drink a cup of coffee." 'VHelgesen Nielsen, who re-

ceived a warning during her second-round win over south African Elna Reinach, said she was not trying to put her opponents off. It's absolutely not inten-

tional. It's just the way I



driver Nigel Mansell (right) is welcomed by Mansell signed a one-year contract (AFP teammate Mika Hakkinen of Finland during a photo)

Tomba scores 10th World Cup win

ADELBODEN, Switzerland (R) — Unbeatable Alberto Tomba set a personal best of 10 World Cup wins in a single season on Saturday, but said that the pressure of victory

was finally getting to him. After trailing in the first leg of a giant slalom to Norway's Harald Strand Nilsen, the Italian had to dig deep into his reserves to spring a typical comeback.

Jure Kosir of Slovenia was second, just 0.07 of a second adrift of Tomba's combined time of two minutes 21.96

Strand Nilsen, an up-and-

the Kraniska Gora giant slalom a month ago, had to settle for third in 2:22.10. The victory extended Tom-ba's overall World Cup lead

eoming Norwegian who finished second to Tomba in

to almost 500 points, but the Italian said bitter experience - be has been runner-up three times - has taught him it is too early to lay claim to Alpine skiing'a most important honour.

"I just feel burned-out," said Tomba. "I've been on top form now for three months and although the wins boost your morale, it.

"still gets tiring. "I'm not sure I'll be able to keep it up. A lot is expected of me.'

Tomba failed to find his rhythm in the first leg until the second half of the course and almost missed a gate at the end.

On the second run he started off smoothly to allow himself what he called an 'explosive finish.'

Kosir, gaining his first podium finish in a giant slaiom, said be thought he had Tomba beaten until he saw the Italian storming through the final gates.

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the agency said.

Armand Assante

& Sherilyn Fenn ATAL INSTINCT 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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the other semifinal.

I've won a lot of many just hanging in the Brackie said.

"I have a reasonable to and good ground stroke; ican volley, so on a particular of the stroke; if I'm going well, it danger."

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of controversy.

European champions Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko (centre) of Finland pose with second placed French team Sophie Moniotte and Pascal Lavanchy (left) as well as third

placed Russians Anjelika Krylova and Oleg Ovisiannikov after receiving their medals following their icedance performance on Friday (AFP photo)

Figure Skating

Finns take first ever European gold

Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko gained Finland's first gold medal at the European Figure Skating Cbam-pionship by capturing the ice dance event Friday.

Bradike is making a m. off last year folia; marriage to Australia Ortopic games bastel. The Finns, who train in Germany and had the crowd behind them, beld on to their slim lead and took the title by one-judge margin over Sophie Moniotte and Pascal

Lavanchy of France. Angelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov of Russia took third,

The Olympie champions, Oksana Gritschuk and Yevgeny Platov of Russia, had to miss the competition because of Platov's knee injnry. They are expected to be back for the World Championship in Birmingbam, England in March.

Rahkamo the daughter of Helsinki's lord mayor, and time Helena Kokko, a student of economics, had a 5-4 majority decision from the nine-judge panel in the final free dance worth 50 per cent of the final score. The Finns were leading after the compulsory

dances and original dance. The champions skated to:a. beatles medley of "Yester-day" and "Hard Day's Night" and earned scores from 5.6 to 5.9 on a scale np

"We appeared in a Eurofirst time in 1986," Kokko said. "Now we are European champions. It's incredible."

The French, to a big jazzy beat, had the same range of marks but the majority of judges cards went to the

The Russians in third bad a Spanish flamenco number that was behind the top two

couples hut enough for the

date for

Earlier, Olga Markova of Russia edged ahead of fourtime champion Surya Bonaly of France after the women's sbort programme.

Another Russian, Olga Butyrskaya, was third, in the programme that required eight basic moves, spins and jumps and counts one-third of the total score. The free programme is Saturday.

Markova, third last year, had a flowing interpretation of "Harlem Nocturne" that included the tough jump combination of triple lutzdouble toe loop. The 21-yearold from Moscow scored 5.5 to 5.8 for technical merit and all 5.7s and 5.8s for presentation on a scale np to 6.0.

Bonaly was a bit off in ber programme but still bad second, although Markova was clearly ahead of her in the presentation mark.

Bonaly didn't see it that way. "My performance was almost perfect," Bonaly said. "But I'm not satisfied with the marks." Bonaly's mother, Suzanne,

who coaches her, disagreed with her daughter. "The performance was not perfect, Mrs. Bonaly said.

Bonaly has won the European title the last four years, twice beating Olympic champion Oksana Batul of nas gone professional and is not competing this year. She may be. back next year if she reinstates by April 1.

Tanja Szewczenko, the German champion, was fourth with a clean programme, although all her landings were not completely smooth.

Another German contender took berself out of the

ted suicide bours after San

haused the following statement:
"Our only commant about the bid-ding is that East might have ven-tured four spades. That contract could have been nipped a trick with

scuttle that plan by shifting to the jack of diamonds when in with the king of clubs, and declarer must lose

three diamond tricks and the club.
"South was indeed a skilled play-

er. What must have happened at the table was that declarer allowed the king of spades to hold the first trick. What West did next is immaterial.

Let's suppose the defender shifted to a club.

trumps in two rounds ending in dummy, then discarded a club on the ace of spades. The queen of clubs was then run for a ruffing finesse and no matter which defend-

er hald the king the contract was

"Declarer rose with the see, dres



17-year-old Russian Ilia Kulik

Kielmann of Germany, skating in ber bome town, slipped on the jump combination and received marks as low as 4.0 to come in 13th.

Thursday, 17-year-old newcomer Ilya Kulik of Russia held off Olympic champion Alexei Urmanov to win the men's event.

after winning the world junior ritle and in his first major competition, held on to the lead he had after the short programme to take the gold medal. Urmanov rebounded from sixth to finish second overall with a dynamic and classical free skating routine that earned the only

running for a medal. Marina Kulik, barely two months perfect 6.0 of the evening. Breuer sets | Football coach's daughter dies scattering mother's ashes

comeback The daughter of San Diego BONN (R) — Germany's former world 400 metres sil-Chargers quarterback coach Dwain Painter was swept to ver medallist Grit Breuer has her death by a wave as she set a date for her comeback scattered her mother's asbes to athletics following a dopinto waves along the Rocky

GOREN BRIDGE

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ing ban.
Breuer, banned with ex-Mendocino Coast. The body of Debbie Mendouble world sprint chamta, 32, was found Friday pion Katrin Krabbe and commorning by U.S. Coast Guard rescuers. Painter's 23-year-old son,

patriot Manuela Derr in Angust 1993 after they admitted taking the drug clenbuterol, said on Friday she planned in the freak accident trying to to run at a meeting at ber new club of Schwerin on August pital officials said.

Derr, who has also switched to Schwerin from Krabbe's old clnb Neubrandenburg, is also scheduled to compete at the meeting.

WITH OMAR SHARIF

East-West vulnerable. South

NORTH

4 A 10 6 7 A Q 5 6 7 6 4

SOUTE

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The bidding:
South West North East
3 0 6 4 4 0 Page
Page Page

Page Page

Opening lead: King of 4

"Good morning, Mr. Phelps.
South, a good player, managed to get home in this contract of four hearts after. West led the king of spades. The mission for you and your team of analysts is to decide which three tricks declarer???? and whather atthough the defendent was

whether either of the defenders was at fault for the contract being

After careful study, Mr. Phelps

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A Q J 9 EAST

Diego of the National Foot-ball League won the Amer-SAN FRANCISCO (AP) ican Football Conference Cham-

pionship on Jan. 15. Friends said Mrs. Painter, who was divorced from her busband, was upset sbe would not be going to the Super Bowl with him. She started her car in the garage of their bome in Bellevue, Pennsylvania, and died of

carbon monoxide poisoning. Doug Painter, also was burt "It's just a series of family tragedies," said Leo Menta, father of Debbie Menta's rescue bis sister, but pulled himself to safety and was in stable condition Friday, bosbusband, Mark Menta, of the San Francisco suburb of Fos-The two were scattering ter City. The couple bave an the ashes of their mother, 18-month-old son, Taylor, he Diane Painter, who commitsaid Dwain Painter was on his

his son.

The brotber and sister were scattering the ashes at the site because Mrs. Painter had often visited Mendocino

with her daughter. "It's one of the favourite spots for the mother and Leo Menta said. When the mother came out they always went up

together."
On Thursday, Doug Pain-ier was found by artist Joy Verner staggering naked along the Mendocino headlands about 120 miles (192 kilometres) north of San Francisco, "Bloody from 10p to bottom," she said.

Doug Painter told authoriues he and his sister stood on a high rock above the ocean at Sunset Thursday to scatter the ashes of their mother.

Baseball owners drop salary cap

WASHINGTON (R) — Major League Basebali club owners have dropped a contentious salary cap imposed in December in order to move toward an agreement with players to end a crippling baseball strike, representatives of both sides said on Friday

Boston Red Sox chief executive John Harrington, chief negotiator for the owners, described the cap as a 'distraction,' and said they had agreed to scrap it effective February 6. The owners' insistence

on a salary cap was a key sticking point in talks aimed at ending the sixmonth strike. Donald Fehr, the play-

ers' chief negotiator, welcomed the owners' deci-"Obviously we're very

pleased. The task now is 10

proceed and negotiate an agreement," be said. The players had said they would oppose any plan by the owners 10 limit their salaries. The owners maintained that some controls were needed to help teams

with those in bigger mar-The action came late en the second day of talks in

in smaller cities compete



John Harrington, chief executive officer of the Boston Red Sox speaks to reporters (AFP photo)

Washington to end the strike. Representatives of both sides said they ex-pected negotiations to resume Saturday. The walkout ended the

1994 season on August 12. President Clinton set Monday as a deadline for the two sides to show some

progress in the talks. If not, be said he would ask mediator Bill Usery to present bis solution which could then be imposed by Congress

Spring training camps are set to open in Florida and Arizona in a few days and the 1995 season is sche-

Asked what Clinton was doing to encourage an agreement before the deadline, White House spokesman Mike McCurry facetiously replied: "The president this weekend will take a 40-ounce Louisville slugger (baseball bat) to both parties and tell them to get a settlement by Monday.

McCurry said be expected the baseball talks to go right down to the wire. People I've talked to think they're going to work all the way through until Monday.

The teams bave threatened to use replacement players if the strike is not settled and have been holding tryout camps.

The players went on strike to protest plans by the owners to impose the salary cap on teams to bold down rapidly rising player contracts.

The owners cancelled the rest of the reason, including the World Series, in

September. Fehr told reporters Fnday he bad cancelled a meeting with managers and coaches Monday in Dallas so be could remain in Washington for the nego-

Knicks flatten 76ers; Magic, Bulls lose

PHILADELPHIA (AP) -Patrick Ewing had 30 points and 15 rebounds Friday night as the New York Knicks held off the Philadelphia Thers 106-36.

In his 12th straight game with double-digit points and rebounds, Ewing hit 12 of 14 from the field as the Knicks won their third straight and ninth in 10 games. He also had five assists.

The game was close until the final quarter. The Knicks went on a 16-4 run over the next five minutes to take control of the game for good, sending the 76ers to their 16th loss in 18 games. Heat 105, Bullets 95; In Landover, Maryland, Billy

Owens scored 30 points. matching his career bigh, and the Miami Heat spoiled Chris Webber's return to the Washington lineup by beating the Bullets.

Matt Geiger had 21 points and 12 rebounds for Miami, which won for just the fifth time on the road. Owens also had 12 rebounds.

Hornets 117, Bucks 98: In Charlone, North Carolina. Muggsy Bogues scored 23 points and Scott Burrell adoed 20 as the Charlotte Hornets ran their winning streak to five games with a victory over the Milwaukee Bucks

The Hornets, off to their best start ever, won without a lot of offense from their big two, Larry Johnson and Alonzo Mourning. Johnson fought off double teams all night, but managed 10 points and 10 assists. Mourning scored 12 points off 4-for-9 shooting.

Pacers 118, Magic 106: In Indianapolis, Rik Smits had 27 points as the Indiana Pacers dealt the Orlando Magic their second straight loss.

Matched against Orlando centre Shaquille O'Neal, Smits came out the winner, hiring 10 of 16 from the field. O'Neal, who entered the

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New York Knicks' Derek Harper (left) fumbles the ball while Clarence Weatherspoon of the 76ers looks on (AFP Clifford Robinson scored 12

game averaging a league-high 29.9 points, finished with 20 points on 7-for-18 shooting. Sonics 121, Hawks 98: In Atlanta, Gary Payton scored 22 points and Seattle hit a season-high 13 3-point baskets as the Sonics won their team-record ninth straight on the road, defeating the Atlanta Hawks.

Is was the 13th victory in 15 games for the Sonics, who won in Atlanta for only the second nme in their last 14

Steve Smith led the Hawks, who had a two-game winning streak snapped, with 18 points and Stacey Augmon **a**dded 17.

Trail Blazers 112, Timberwolves 97: In Minneapolis, of his 22 points in the third quarter and Clyde Drexler added 11 in the period as Portland beat Minnesota. The Blazers snapped their two-game losing streak and

improved their record at the target centre to 11-0. Drexler finished with 16 points on 4-of-13 shooting and became the 36th player

in NBA history and the eighth acrive player to top 18,000 points. Spurs 114, Mavericks 103:

In Dallas, David Robinson

had 20 points and Dennis Rodman got 20 rebounds to lead the San Antonio Spurs to their sixth straight victory, over the Dallas Mavencks.

Sean Ellion, Vinny Del Negro and J.R. Reid scored 16 points each for the Spurs, who had seven double-figure scorers. Avery Johnson contributed 12 points and 14 assists for San Antonio, which has won 21 of its last

Jim Jackson's 22 points and Jamai Mashburn's 21 paced the Mavericks, who fell for the ninth time in their last 10 tries and dropped their seventh in a row at home. Suns 110, Bulls 100: In

Phoenix, Danny Manning scored 11 straight points in the fourth quarter to help the Phoenix Suns hold off the Chicago Bulls.

Manning, who finished with 30 points and 14 rebounds, made good on a three-point play with 6:21 left, giving the Suns a 97-90 lead, Phoenix's biggest of the game at the point.

Scottie Pippen had 28 points, 11 rebounds and five steals for Chicago.

Warriors 106, Clippers 89: In Oakland, California, Chris gatling scored 20 points and rookie Carlos Rogers had 17 rebounds as the Golden State Warriors broke a four-game losing streak with a win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Rogers, who also scored 18 points, matched the most rebounds by a Warrior this season. Tim Hardaway had an unusual triple-double for Golden State — 15 points, 14 assists and a career-high 10 turnovers. Terry Dehere had 13

points for the Clippes, who shot just 35 per cent in losing their fourtb straight.

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Saudis withdrew from border — Yemeni minister

men's Foreign Minister 40 Yemenis and 14 Saudis Abdul Karim Al Iryani said Saturday that Saudi troops had pulled back from the disputed border with his

"Saudi troops massed on the border with Yemen have been withdrawn," Dr. Iryani told reporters after a meeting here with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

He said be had given Mr. Mubarak a message from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the situation in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf regison.

"1 informed President Mubarak of the details of our negotiations with Saudi Arabia aimed at reaching a joint understanding concerning relations between the two countries and resolving the border dispute," he said.

"I hope negotiations on this subject between the two countries will bring hope," he added. The two countries opened

talks in Riyadh on Jan. 23 after a flare-up of tension on their border, which Yemen said was caused by Saudi Arabia massing troops and tanks along its northeast border.

The Sandis denied the reports.

The two countries are in dispute over the provinces of Najran, Jizan and Assir close to the border that were assigned to Saudi Arabia under the 1934 Taif accord.

Sanaa argues the treaty expired in September 1992 but says it is willing to renegotiate the agreement.

Dr. Iryani said a settlement would be reached "on the basis of the Taif accord and on the principles of interna-

The dispute has led to several armed clashes on the border, most recent on Jan.

10 which diplomats said left

Meanwhile Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said:
"The problem is not on the point of being resolved, there is a long way to go and efforts must be continued," to settle the dispute.

Yemeni and Saudi officials were due ot resume talks in the Saudi capital on Saturday.

They met in Riyadh on the Thursday to discuss the dispute in line with a Syrianbrokered accord on Jan. 15 under which the two sides pledged to pull back troops rushed to the border and not to resort to force.

Officials said Dr. Iryani was to leave Cairo later on Saturday, a day before his Saudi counterpart Saud Al Faisal is due to arrive for a two-day meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states.

The declaration was signed by Egypt, Syria and six Gulf states in 1991 after the Gulf

U.S. 'satisfied'

The United States is satisfied with Yemen's apparent expulsion of Iraqi military advisors who helped the victorious north in last year's civil war, a regional newspaper reported Saturday.

Saudi-owned Al Hayat, quoting Arab diplomats in the U.S. capital, said the move has "left satisfaction in Washington," which may lead to Yemen getting badly needed spare parts for its air

Yemen was unable to maintain its 11 U.S.-made F-5E fighter jets after an effective U.S. boycott caused hy its sympathy for Iraq in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, which angered the United States and the Saudi Arabian-led

New religious group has Kabul in its sights

By Herve Clerc

Agence France Presse

ISLAMABAD — A force led by ardent religious students is making huge territorial gains in Afghanistan and poses a growing threat to the mainstream mujahedeen who led the 14-year holy war in the country.

Taleban, virtually unheard of six months ago, is closing in on the stronghold of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, head of Hezb-e-Islami, one of the main fundamentalist factions fighting for control of war-torn Afghanistan.

The impressively armed force makes no secret that their eventual target is Kabul and total control of the country.

Taleban are reported to control eight provinces in the south of the country and are moving into the west in Herat and toward the Pakistan frontier on the

"The mnjahedeen have spent more than two years tearing themselves apart and they will lose everything they have gained in Afghanistan," said .one Islamabad-based diplomat.

The young Taleban fighters are now on the fringes of Wardak provincial capital, Maidan Shahr, a Hekmatyar stronghold 30 kilometres south of Kabul. A Defence Ministry official in Kabul told AFP that a 1,500-strong force of Taleban and their mujahe-

deen allies, advanced late Thursday to a river south of Maidan Shahr. On Friday the force pushed on to the city limits.

They hroke the old frontline, and now Maidan Shahr is now under serious threat," said the official.

Taleban has become a major player with Mr. Hekmatyar and President Burhanuddin Rabbani since taking Kandahar from mujahedeen commanders last autumn.

The movement has grown from a hard core of 800 disaffected theology students to around 25,000 men. Diplomatic sources said they have enormous amounts of arms and ammunition, including 200 tanks, 100 of which are operational, and a dozen MiG-21 fighters.

Mainly educated at Korame schools in Pakistan, the Taleban fighters have won support from ordinary Afghans, frustrated and tired by the anarchy that has torn the country apart since the fall of the com-

helped their takeover of large chunks of territory. The movement began with the 800 fundamentalist students who launched a call for an "Islamic revolution" throughout Afghanis-

munist government in 1992.

Local chieftains have

In areas they control, women must wear veils and are restricted from working. Drug traffickers have been chased away and Islamic punishment estab-

Despite denials from Islamabad, which is officially neutral in Afghan affairs, experts and diplomats are convinced Pakistan supports the Taleban move-

Islamabad's aim is to reestablish stability in southern Afghanistan and to reopen a commercial route between Pakistan and Central Asia, analysts say.

To support their war effort, the Taleban are starting to recruit, particularly in Pakistan, technicians and engineers to repair damaged material, rebuild bridges and reopen

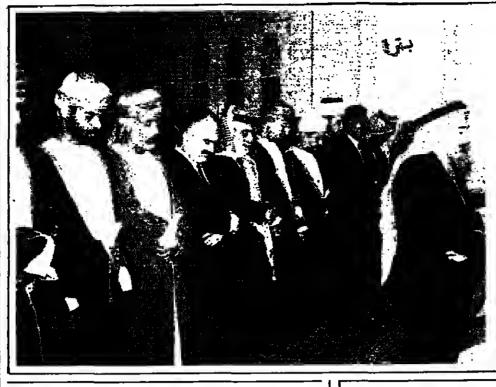
roads. The irony is that Mr. Hekmatyar is considered a "protege" of the Pakistan government. According to some analysts, Mr. Hekmatyar has the support of the secret service, 1S1, while the Taleban is supported by Interior Minister

Nasrullah Babar. Mr. Rabbani and his faction seems ready to play the Taleban card against their arch-rival Hekmatvar

The Defence Ministry official said the Wardak towns of Sayyedabad, Jargatu and Sheikhabad had been captured from Hezbe-Islami in the new Talchan

Maidan Shahr is connected by road to Mr. Hekmatyar's Charasiah headquarters, which are located 25 kilometres south of Kabui.

The Taleban could press an attack against Mr. Hekmatyar's headquarters if they are not held by Hezbe-Islami fighters at Maidan



Ro-Myung left for the United States and Japan to discuss

the progress of the nuclear

is to review the nuclear situa-

tion with U.S. counterpart

Warren Christopher and De-

Mr. Gong will also fly to New York for talks with

U.N. Secretary General

Boutros Ghali before pro-

ceeding to Tokyo, where be

will meet with Japanese Fore-ign Minister Yohei Kono.

fought against each other

during the 1950-53 Korean

war and are still technically at

war because they never

In Washington, a top offi-

cial said Friday the United

States was warning North

Korea to stop trying to freeze

South Korea out of the thaw-

ing relations hetween

Washington and Pyongyang.

understand... that the proces-

ses of North Korean-U.S. re-

lations and their develop-

ment must proceed in parallel

with the North-South dia-

logue" about the future of

the Korean Peninsula, Depu-

ty Secretary of State Strobe Talbott told a Friday news

"Clearly, if the North-

South dialogue remains as

I'm afraid it is now - frozen

with... the principle of para-llelism which guides our poli-

that will be inconsistent

It would also violate the

Oct. 21 agreement in which

the United States and North

Korea agreed to improve re-

lations while Pyongyang dis-

mantled its suspected nuclear

programme, Mr. Talhott

Mr. Talbott said he assured

South Korean officials during

his Asian trip last mouth that

Washington was insisting on "parallelism." Seoul's con-

cerns will be discussed with

Mr. Gong, Mr. Talbott said. Mr. Talbott also said the

United States was insisting

that the light-water reactors

North Korea will get to re-

place its aging graphite nuc-lear reactors come from

conference,

cy," he said.

added.

"North Korea should

signed a peace treaty.

North and South Korea

fence Secretary William Per-

In Washington, Mr. Gong

Pyongyang says no

with Washington if the Un-

ited States holds its annual

spring military exercise with

"Team Spirit" exercises a re-

hearsal for an invasion and in

the past has protested by

cancelling talks on improving

In past years, about 100,000 U.S. and South Ko-

rean troops bave partici-

"The implementation of

the agreed (nnelear)

framework would be un-

thinkable if a belligerent par-

ty staged a massive military

rehearsal against the other

side," the North's official

Korea Central News Agency

(KCNA) said, quoting from

the Communist Party news-

The exercises would also

"spoil the atmosphere of de-

tente on the Korean Peninsu-

la and lead the situation back

to the extreme pitch of

The U.S.-North Korea

agreement in October haited

North Korea's anclear prog-

ramme, suspected of being

nsed to make atomic

weapons. In turn, the United

Stastes promised to help the

North huild safer nuclear

reactors and establish di-

But subsequent talks on vorking out the details of the

nuclear deal have reportedly

bogged down, with North

Korea refusing to accept a

South Korean replacement

South Korea has said it

would pay the bulk of the \$4

billion tag for the new reac-

tors, but only if they are

refusing to reopen inter-

Korean talks, also required

under the October nuclear

held in March or April but

was cancelled last year to

avoid jeopardising U.S.-

North Korea nuclear negotia-

tions. The nuclear pact did

not ban the exercise from

taking place this year. The exercises focus on de-

Also Saturday, South Ko-

fensive preparations.

Team Spirit" is normally

North Korea has also been

South Korean models.

plomatic relations.

reactor.

agreement.

paper Rodong Sinmun.

strain," KCNA said.

North Korea calls the

South Korea.

relations.

deal if exercises held

SEOUL (AP) — North Korea threatened Saturday to pull ont of its nuclear deal ream Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myung left for the United States and Japan to discuss

King hosts Zarqa notables

HIS MAJESTY King Hossein nn Saturday hosted an iftar in honour of tribal leaders and representatives of public and private institutions in Zarqa Governorate.

The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, members of the royal family, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, the King's advisors and Interior Minister Salameh

Hamad.
The banquet was alsn attended by Omani Minister of Foreign Affairs Yousef Ben Alawi, who was on a visit to

The King and the guests performed Al Maghreb

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwalt : foreign minister to tour Europe

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - The Kuwaiti foreign minister is to tour Europe this month in a bid to rally support for maintaining United Nations sanctions on Iraq, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday. Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah is to visit Britain and France, two of the U.N. Security Council's five permanent members. He will also visit Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic, the Foreign Ministry official said, without giving dates for the tour. The Kuwaiti minister last week visited Oman after the sultanate argued for an easing of the sanctions on Iraq. Of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates — only Saudi Arabia and Kuwait favour maintaining existing sanctions on Iraq.

Egyptian policeman killed

CAIRO (AP) — Suspected Muslim extremists killed : policeman and wounded six people in an attack Saturday on a patrolling police car in southern Egypt, Four suspected militants started shooting at the police car in Mallawi, 260 kilometres south of Cairo on Saturday morning. The driver was immediately killed and six others in the car were wounded and taken to a hospital. Security sources in Mallawi, who declined to be further identified said the six wounded were policemen. Interior Ministry officials in Cairo said one civilian and five policemen were wounded. It was not immediately clear why the accounts differed. Police rounded up 17 suspects after the attack, the sources in Mallawi said.

9 die in Maltese dry dock blast

VALLETTA (R) - Nine workers died and at least 20 were injured when a Libyan chemical tanker being repaired in a Maltese dry dock exploded, police said on Saturday. The explosion, ripped through the 3,000-tonne Um Al Farud, being repaired at dry docks in Senglea some 12 kilometres south of the Maltese capital Valletta, at about midnight (2300 GMT Friday). An official statement released by Maltese Interior Minister Louis Galea said that the explosion had been caused by a build-up of leaking gas in the hold of the ship. There was no cargo on board the ship when the hlast occurred.

Turkey's pro-Kurdish newspaper folds

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey's leading pro-Kurdish newspaper said on Saturday an Istanbul court had forced it to close down. Staff at Ozgur Ulke said they closed the newspaper late on Friday, after deciding the court's rulings essentially made the paper illegal and it would be impossi-hle to continue. The court had earlier ordered the confiscation of Thursday's and Friday's editions, ruling that the newspaper was the same as the pro-Kurdish Ozgur Gundem paper shut down last April on charges of making separatist propaganda.

Air controllers avert collision of jets

LISBON (AP) - Lisbon's airport traffic controllers managed to stop the takeoff of a KLM passenger jet Friday to avert a possible collision with a military plane. Portugal's airport and air traffic authority said the Dutch carrier's Airbus 310 bound for Amsterdam was ready for takeoff when a Portuguese military Hercules C-130 took off from a nearby runway without receiving control tower clearance. The airport anthority said air traffic controllers ordered the KLM crew to bring the airbus to a halt in time to avoid a possible crash. "This incident, happily without consequences, allows us to confirm that the safety systems work, the airport authority said in a written statement.

Somalis hold 14 aid staff hostage

MOGADISHU (AFP) - A group of armed former Somali employees of the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) on Saturday barricaded 14 foreign workers in their compound in sonthern Mogadishn following a dispute over payment.

A fifteenth member of the aid team, a Sudanese woman, was allowed to leave by the Somalis because she was fast-ing for the Holy Month of Ramadan and wished to return home.

Among those held is the team's Italian leader Ferdinando Zanusso, who said the dispute had erupted two days ago, but had its origins in events in 1992 that he said were settled in 1993.

The captives comprise three Americans, one Afghan, one Australian, a Canadian, an Indian, two ltalians, including Zanusso, a Briton, a man from Denmark, an Irishman, a South African and a Sudanese. U.N. spokesman George Bennett said negotiations between the WFP and the

Somali gunmen were underway in an attempt to resolve the dispute. An official from the Somali National Alliance (SNA) faction of warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed told journalists that progress was being made in negotiations with the gun-

men, hut be declined to Mr. Zamusso said the dispute started in 1992 when the U.S.-led U.N. operation in Somalia took over the runming of the sea port and sacked Somali guards hired hy the WFP.

We gave them extra food on their contract termination," Mr. Zanusso said. He added: "The security of the international staff is the indisputable responsibility of Somali elders and faction leaders claiming responsibil-

ity for their respective But Abdullah Aghdere, a spokesman for the militiamen ringing the compound and its demoralised occupants, told reporters that there had been no settlement of the dispute. He said the rights of about 1,000 local employees of the WFP had been violated and they were owed several months' back pay.

Roads leading to the WFP building were blockaded on several occasions in the past for similar reasons.

Mr. Zannsso was instrumental in securing the re-lease last month of Rudy Marco, a French worker with a humanitarian group, held by Somalis for 37 days. The detention of the aid workers comes as the U.N. force bas pulled back to Mogadishu's port and airport prior to pulling out of the

war-ravaged Horn of Africa country. Mounting insecurity has forced the U.N. to bring forward the evacuation of its staff from Somalia. U.N. employees are to be moved out of Somalia by Feb. 14, well ahead of the March 31 deadline set earlier (see page 2).

Corruption row hits U.K.'s house of lords

LONDON (R) - Britain's upper house of parliament, the House of Lords, was hit by allegations that members took money from lobbyists in return for asking questions on their behalf during lawmaking sessions. Opposition Liberal Democrat Lord Lester, a top homan rights lawyer, made the claim in a secret submission to a lords committee investigating the financial affairs of peers. In the document, published by London's Evening Standard newspaper, Lord Lester said:
"One of my commercial
clients at the bar has informed me that he has paid substantial sums and given direct financial benefits to some four peers, as well as several members of the House of Commons, to take other action on behalf of him and his company. "None of them declared this interest to either house." The lower house of parliament, the Commons, was hit last year hy "cash-for-questions" allegations. It has been asked to pass a law forbidding lawmakers to take money from

Czar's burial postponed pending U.S. research

MUSCUW (AP) - The remains of Czar Nicholas II and his family will not be buried next month as planned because authorities want to conduct further genetic tests, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. The report said additional testing of the remains of the czar's younger brother, Georgy, is needed for comparison to remove all doubts about the identity of the czar's remains. Georgy's body was exhumed last year from St. Petersburg's Peter and Pani Cathedrai, but comparative research has not started, ITAR-TASS said. It cited Vladimir Solovyov of the chief prosecutor's office, which is conducting the investigation. Sophisticated equipment necessary for the research could not be found in Russia, Mr. Solovyov was quoted as saying, and it was. decided to send the samples to a research centre in the United States, Czar Nicholas II abdicated in 1917, and he and his family were held prisoner at a royal compound outside St. Petersburg, then known as Petrograd. Later, the Bolsheviks moved them to the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg, where they were herded into a basement and killed on the night of July 16-17, 1918. Remains were discovered in a pit outside Yekaterinburg in 1991 which forensic experts, including some British scholars, identified as the czar, his wife and three of their daughters. Russian authorities have said they want to conduct all possible research before interring the remains in Peter and Paul's, the resting place of czars since Peter the Great. The report did not say when the burial would take

Nurse suspected of murdering patients

TREUCHTLINGEN, Germany (AFP) — A nurse from this southern German town has been detained on suspicion of administering lethal doses of medicine to an 85year-old patient, and could be accused of causing other deaths, a judicial official said. The Bavarian official said that the 40-year old nurse's clinic informed prosecutors last mouth that she had been behaving "incorrectly" by handing out the medicine in June 1994. The nurse has not commented on the case and no motive has been mentioned. Investigators were seeking to determine whether she could be blamed for the deaths of other patients, the official added. According to the mass circulation Bild newspaper, the unrse may be responsible for the deaths of 24 patients, which would be the largest such case ever recorded in Germany. Five years ago, a Wappertal nurse was sentenced to 11 years in prison for giving five patients ethal injections. Two years ago an orderly from Bielefeld was given 15 years in jail for killing 10 patients.

Record 72 journalists killed in line of duty in 94

NEW YORK (Special) --- A record 72 journalists were killed on the job last year, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reported Friday in a press release.

Fifty-eight of the deaths appear to have been deliberate political assassinations, according to information released in CPJ's annual accounting of reporters, photographers and editors who have died in the line of duty. In none of the 18 countries where these murders took place has anyone yet been arrested and tried for these crimes, the CPJ press release said. Algerian fundamentalist

rebels were responsible for 19 of the murders, making Algeria the most dangerous country in the world for iournalists in 1994.

"We have never seen so many premeditated murders of journalists," said CPH Chairwoman Kati Marton. "Political assassination has become the leading cause of job-related death among reporters

worldwide." Another 14 journalists were killed in 1994 while on assignment in battle zones, the committee reported — 5 in Bosnia, 3 in Somalia, 2 in Chechenya, 2 in South African townships, one in Angola, and one in Rwan-

The 72 cases of journalists killed as a direct result of their profession is the largest number ever recorded by CPJ. In 1993, 64 journalists were killed on the job, according to information gathered by the committee; ten of these cases were not confirmed until 1994. Reports of journalists killed in the line of duty are investigated by CPJ staff researchers, who verify that the victims were employed in newsgathering and were killed as a direct consequence of their work. CPJ, a private non-partisan group dedicated to the defence of press freedom worldwide, has been investigating and responding to the deaths of journalists since its founding in 1981.

The 19 journalists mur-dered in Algeria last year represents the largest number of journalists deliberately killed in one country. since the assassination campaigns of Argentina's "dirty war" in the 1970s. All hut one of the victims were Algerian nationals; most

were reporters for Frenchlanguage newspapers, magazines, and wire services. The Armed Islamic Group, which claimed re-sponsibility for many of these killings, has since de-clared that it is imposing the ''death penalty'' on all local radio and television journalists. Since May 1993, a total of 32 journalists have been murdered by fundamentalist extremists in Algeria. CPJ has asked the Algerian government to investigate and prosecute these crimes, and has urged leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front, the main fundamentalist opposition group, to condemn these killings publicly and unequivocally.

In Rwanda last year, 14 reporters and editors were killed in what evidence indicates were also intentional murders of well-known local journalists. A further five such cases remain under investigation by CPJ staff researchers. The genocidal massacres of 1994 claimed the lives of at leat another 30 Rwandan journalists, but there is no elear casual link between these deaths and the victims' professions.

In Tajikistan, four journalists were murdered by unidentified gunmen last year in Tajikistan in incidents that CPJ believes were deliberate political killings. Those deaths bring to 27 the number of Tajik journalists known to have been murdered since 1992. Three Cambodian reporters were murdered by unidentified assailants last

year in what CPJ researchers believe were the first deliberate killings of jour-nalists since Cambodia's emergence as a new democracy. Pakistan, in two related killings, also witnessed its first documented murders of working journalists in many years.
In an especially disturbing development, two Rus-

sian investigative reporters were mardered in apparent retaliation for their work. One was ionvestigating Moscow's criminal underworld; the other was pursuing a story on corruption in the military. A reporter and editor for two opposition-linked jour-

nals in Zaire were murdered in separate incidentslast year. In Turkey, a pro-Kurdish reporter and a leftwing newspaper editor were murdered in circumstgested political motive.
Other journalists murdered last year include a BBC correspondent in Afghanis tan; an Iranian re orter in Mostar; a Brazilian small town newspaper publisher; a Burundian breadcast journalist; a Colombian talk-show host; a Guatemalan radio news director; a German freelancer in Kurdish-controlled north ern Iraq; and the editor of a weekly newsmagazine in

Cuernavaca, Mexico.

CPJ researchers are still

investigationg 13 other

ances that strongly sug-

murders — five in Rwanda, two in Mexico, two in Russia, and one each in Belarus, Bosnia, Colombia, and Madagascar - that also may have heen targeted political killings. "It hasn't been possible to establish a direct link between the crime and the victim's profession, but many of their colleagues are convinced such a link exists," said Bill Orme, CPJ's executive director "We have asked the appropriate national au-

thorities to ionvestigate these homicides promptly and thoronghly, and to bring those responsible for to justice."

